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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-090
Thursday
11 May 1989

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FBIS-LAT-89-090 *11 May 1989*

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Group of Eight Holds Noninterventionist Stance

PA1105013889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0013 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 10 May (EFE)—The Group of Eight foreign ministers refrained today from passing judgment on the situation in Panama in the wake of last Sunday's elections and reaffirmed their commitment to nonintervention.

The Group of Eight statement released in Bogota today states, however, that "Panama is increasingly alienating itself from the Latin American community." It adds that the seven foreign ministers—Panama is excluded because of its political crisis—are "concerned and worried" about the current situation in Panama. The communique is signed by the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The statement also demands "the unrestricted fulfillment of the Panama Canal treaties" signed by the late General Omar Torrijos and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

The document, released by the Colombian Foreign Ministry, recalls that the presidents who make up the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination for Latin America noted that "the consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights" are the Group of Eight's principal objectives.

It is recalled that in the "Acapulco Agreement," by which the organization was formed, the signatories "committed themselves to carrying out actions to contribute through cooperation and consultation to strengthening defense and the consolidation of democratic institutions."

In the same "Acapulco Agreement," the statement asserts, principles were established, namely that peace "is linked to the respect for the principles of self-determination and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other governments."

According to the Group of Eight, the strict observation of these principles "demands refraining from passing judgment on the specific reasons for the political crisis in Panama following the elections."

The Group of Eight foreign ministers also expressed their "profound concern over the situation because it could further alienate the Panamanian Government from the Latin American democratic community at a historic time when the principle of freedom of expression is gaining momentum in our region."

The statement reaffirms the Group of Eight's "commitment to continue to defend the principles of nonintervention, self-determination, and democracy, which were established in Acapulco, as they are in the Panama Canal treaties, which should be completely fulfilled."

Finally, the Group of Eight foreign ministers reiterated "the conviction that the best way to defend the Latin American nations and peoples is to freely and fully respect the people's will, which should be expressed without obstacles of any kind."

Cuba

Panamanian Ambassador on 'Disinformation Campaign'

FL1105012389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 May 89

[Interview with Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to Cuba, by reporter Eva Luna; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Orestes] Months before the 7 May general elections were held, we had been seeing a broad disinformation campaign and internal actions in the country to discredit the democratic process taking place in Panama. This campaign is growing as time goes by and is continuing after the 7 May electoral process.

Before the elections, U.S. Secretary of State Baker and President Bush said in the United States that they were not going to accept a victory of the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] headed by president [corrects himself] presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen. Later, the White House sent over 20 observers to our country. They did not use normal channels to enter Panama but landed on a U.S. military airport at Howard Airforce Base. When they returned to the United States they immediately met with the U.S. President. Two important things came out of there.

A member of the group favors the possible expansion of economic measures on Panama and an embargo if COLINA wins. There are people within this observer group with more extreme positions who asked the U.S. President to conduct a military intervention to halt the process in Panama. Others are trying to promote amendments in the United States to not recognize the Panama Canal treaties.

[Luna] Considering all these elements, how do you think we can link these U.S. pressures with the attitude the Panamanian opposition has assumed?

[Orestes] The opposition is placed within the framework of imperialism's strategy in Panama. Its electoral role, if it does not win the elections, is to disqualify them. That is, to abort the democratic constitutional exercise. Our government was the main interested party to take it forward.

Plans of U.S. Intervention in Panama Reported

FL1005233389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2304 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The U.S. Government is preparing for a direct military intervention while Southern Command troops are moving into Panamanian territory. This was denounced today by international figures in the isthmian capital. Journalists and technical and political observers from various countries have signed a statement alerting the peoples and governments of Latin America and the world about the threat of a military action.

They note the intense activities of Yankee troops located in the banks of the interoceanic canal. The report adds that the U.S. Government is committing great publicity and diplomatic fraud against Panama in order to perpetuate its geopolitical dominance and its position of strength through the indefinite occupation of military bases in the canal area.

MINREX Denounces U.S. Actions

FL1105105389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1018 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry [MINREX] has issued a declaration denouncing U.S. actions based on the concept of limited sovereignty for Latin American countries. The Cuban document refers to the blatant U.S. speculation on the measures it will take to impose its will in Panama. The aggressive action of the United States seems to indicate that not only will the United States increase its hostile actions against that brother Latin American country, but it also sees the use of force as a viable option.

The Foreign Ministry declaration warns of the grave consequences on all of Latin America and on U.S.-Latin American relations that would result from the inevitable reaction to a U.S. military intervention in Panama.

The MINREX statement says that Cuba feels that what is in play is not the legality of an electoral action, but rather the attempt of the United States to direct the political processes in our countries.

Warns Against U.S. Intervention

FL1105121589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Last Night, the Cuban Foreign Ministry issued a declaration on the situation in Panama and warns against an eventual U.S. military intervention. The note says that a decision of this nature would provoke an inevitable and explosive people's reaction in Latin America with serious consequences for the entire region.

The Foreign Ministry declaration says, textually:

For the Government of Cuba, what is in play is not the legality of an electoral action in a country in our region, but rather the United States attempt to appoint itself the arbitrator of the political processes of our countries with its so-called right to interfere in the internal rights of the states in our region and to maintain over these same states a tutelage that limits their sovereignty and rights as independent members of the international community.

The Cuban declaration concludes by saying:

The Government of Cuba rejects foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Panama. It is up to Panamanian authorities and institutions to decide their country's destiny and a violation of these sacred principles would

only benefit those who want to prevent expanded Latin American-Caribbean cooperation, strengthening of peace, security, sovereignty, and democracy among our peoples.

Malmierca Comments on Situation

FL1105124989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today warned in Madrid that a U.S. military intervention in Panama would be a big blunder with explosive consequences for the entire region. It is clear, said Malmierca, that interference has occurred, especially on the part of the United States which has designated enormous sums of up to $100 million to influence the results of the Panamanian electoral process.

Malmierca, who this morning had a breakfast meeting with his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, said that the United States is trying to prevent the Torrijos-Carter agreements from being applied because it would bring an end to the U.S. military presence in the canal zone.

The Cuban foreign minister arrived in Madrid yesterday and after he meets with the Spanish foreign minister today, he will travel to Harare, Zimbabwe to attend the nonaligned countries meeting.

Vice President Meets With Brazilian Official

FL1005131989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez yesterday met in Havana with the secretary general of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry [title as heard], Paulo Tarso. Mr Tarso is heading a delegation to Cuba to attend the first consultative and trade meeting between the Cuban and Brazilian Foreign Ministries.

Brazil's Sarney To Visit Before 'End of Year'

FL1005145989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney will visit Cuba before the end of the year at the invitation of the Cuban Government. This was stated to PRENSA LATINA in Havana by Brazilian vice foreign minister, Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, shortly before departing for Canada.

Flecha de Lima finished a 3-day visit to our country at which time he met with high-level diplomatic and foreign trade officials. While in Cuba, he inaugurated a bilateral political consultative system which will meet once a year, alternating between the two countries.

Shortly before traveling to Canada, the vice foreign minister said he informed Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez that President Sarney will visit Cuba before the end of the year.

Flecha de Lima said that his talks in Havana confirmed the high level of agreement between the two countries in assessing the international situation.

In reference to the recently inaugurated system for political consultations between Brazil and Cuba, the vice foreign minister said that its merit is that immediate results are not sought; instead, each country will exchange views on how to improve the international situation.

Regarding international ties, Flecha de Lima said that no problems exist and that the two countries agree strongly on several topics. He said that there is immense potential for relations between Cuba and Brazil, as is shown by the fact that bilateral trade has gone from nothing to $80 million in 2 years. The Brazilian vice foreign minister said that during his talks with Cuban Government leaders, they agreed that the foreign debt is unpayable, as the problem has been previously stated. Flecha de Lima also called for Latin American integration.

CSSR Ambassador on Bilateral Cooperation

FL1105015089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The CSSR is marking today the 44th anniversary of the liberation from fascism. On this occasion, Stanislav Svoboda, CSSR ambassador to Cuba, talks about the current status of bilateral cooperation in an interview for the Cuban television.

[Begin recording] [Journalist Daisy Gomez] Svoboda, the agreement signed for this 1986-1990 5-year period is in effect now. We would like to learn how this bilateral agreement is going.

[Svoboda, in Spanish] Everything is going better than we thought. It can be seen that the two countries found new ways for cooperation that have helped the good development of our relations in the areas of economy and trade. There is notable progress compared to previous years. In 1990, we will be involved in the production of 36 percent of the total electric power capacity of your country.

[Gomez] This is good news.

[Svoboda] We also participate in the citrus development plan. We supply some chemical fertilizers, tractors, and loaders. Good news for our people was that before last year's Christmas we received over 60,000 tons of that fruit that is liked so much in Czechoslovakia. [Video shows pineapples.] Regarding future development, we need to find new ways for direct cooperation between producers in some fields. Perhaps we can think of some joint industries and other ways.

[Gomez] Ambassador, thank you very much for your remarks for the Cuban television and we congratulate you for the national festivities of the Czechoslovak people.

[Svoboda] Thank you and the Cuban people for those congratulations. [end recording]

Economic, Scientific Accord Signed With Hungary

FL1005153089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Peter Megdyessy, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic, have signed a final protocol at the 16th Cuba-Hungary Intergovernmental Economic, Scientific-Technical Cooperation meeting in the Cubanacan Hall. The protocol includes increased cooperation in the areas of nuclear energy, telecommunications, education, tourism, and other areas. The Hungarian and Cuban delegations also ratified increased trade and scientific-technical cooperation, as well as increased credit for the manufacturing of buses. The document also allows for the production of items that are of interest to both countries.

[Begin Fernandez recording, in Spanish with simultaneous Hungarian translation] The group of experts and all members of the delegation have worked hard during the past 48 hours. I think the work has been productive in the search for solutions. Certain points have progressed more than others but we view with optimism what we have attained and we are confident that we will be able to summarize all these points in an assessment and discussion in future sessions. [applause] [end recording]

160 Internationalists Return From Angola

FL1005132789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] More than 160 internationalist combatants returned to Cuba last night from Angola. The group was received at the airport by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Aldana Welcomes Combatants

FL1105024089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A welcoming ceremony for over 300 internationalists, who arrived in the fatherland in the last hours, has been held at El Cacahual. Our combatants paid tribute to Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo, Captain Francisco Gomez Toro, and Comrade Blas Roca Calderio. [Video shows soldiers placing floral wreath.]

[Begin Carlos Aldana recording, identified by caption as member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee] Cuba fulfills today in a strict, meticulous, responsible, and serious manner the commitment made as a result of those negotiations. You are a tangible expression of the seriousness with which our people, party, and state are fulfilling their commitments.

A lot is yet to be done. Discriminatory laws need to be abolished in Namibia. Conditions need to be created for the return of exiles. Amnesty needs to be granted to political prisoners. Guarantees need to be given for a truly democratic electoral process. All these demands and tasks are difficult and complex because of the conditions in which they are taking place and are up to the United Nations, the UNTAG [UN Transitional Assistance Group], and the Security Council.

Cuba, together with Angola, will continue making its contribution, as it has up to now, with the same responsibility we showed at the time of combative actions, with the same seriousness and sense of duty. We have the firm conviction that, in light of the latest negotiations and the latest agreements reached, the fundamental conditions that will allow the process to implement UN Resolution 435 to continue without further delays and pretexts, should be reestablished by 13 May. [end recording]

Justice Minister Grants Interview in Costa Rica

FL1005162489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona said today in Costa Rica that Cuba wants to demonstrate that, amid economic difficulties, the work of penal justice and the prisoners' living conditions can be improved.

In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, Escalona said he was very satisfied to hear that 26 regional countries support Cuba in its request to host the Eighth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Treatment. The Cuban minister said that our nation offered to host the meeting last year and received the support of the Prevention and Social Justice Committee [committee name as heard] that visited Havana last August.

Escalona said the UN congress can be an important step in the inter-American integration process.

Castro Visits Matanzas Province 'Hotel Areas'

FL1005121289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro yesterday toured the principal hotel areas under construction in Varadero Municipality, Matanzas Province. Fidel called these projects an internationalist mission in national territory.

The chief of the Cuban Revolution also visited the airport terminal that is under construction in the resort city, as well as the super tanker base in Matanzas. Fidel also visited the site of the oil well that is being drilled at the furthest point of the (?Balboa) causeway and the site of the highway under construction in Cardenas.

The commander in chief observed the progress of the construction and he held intense talks with workers and leaders responsible for these projects. Fidel's visit to these locations is part of an island-wide tour that began last Friday in Fomento Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province where he visited important social-economic construction sites. He also visited sites in Ciego de Avila and Villa Clara Provinces.

Fidel expressed his satisfaction with his tour through the four provinces.

Commander Assesses Tour

FL1005180089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1250 GMT 10 May 89

[Remarks by President Fidel Castro to unidentified journalist at the conclusion of his 9 May tour to Matanzas Province—recorded]

[Text] [Journalist] We would like to know your general impressions about your visit to Matanzas.

[Castro] I have very good impressions about my visit to Matanzas. I have been impressed everywhere I've been. In Matanzas, I first visited the camp for the contingent that is constructing the causeway through Majaguillar. The only mistake we made was in arriving at 2000. We had forgotten that the contingents work until 2100, 2200, or 2300. They were working when we arrived at dusk.

Today we saw the construction projects in Varadero and they have gained great momentum. Many workers there are building with true dedication. There work is of good quality. I have been impressed with the workers and the construction leaders. They are very united there. We visited several hotels under construction. These are progressing well. We later visited the causeways for the oil wells. These have also gained great momentum. We saw the primary causeway in Marbella which is more than 2,000 meters long.

It appears that the oil workers have good possibilities there. They are working more carefully now. They cannot make any errors so as not to affect the well. There is a lot of gas pressure. A few signs of oil are also visible but there is a lot of gas pressure. I was informed that the oil may be found at 2,700 meters.

We then visited the second causeway that is under construction. It now has an islet and the workers are approaching the area where they have to build the second islet and before the end of the year they will have the 2,800 km of causeway completed. We will then have three islets. From there we could see a few kilometers where the platform will be built. That platform was going to be built where the first causeway is now. We have progressed tremendously.

[Journalist] We have also saved money.

[Castro] We have saved a lot, a little more than half a million pesos in costs....

[Journalist, interrupting] It would have cost us 50 million pesos.

[Castro] We have saved on the platform. It cost 2 million rubles.

[Journalist] It cost 2 million rubles.

[Castro] We are building three more platforms on the second causeway which is valued at about 50 million rubles. The Majaguillar causeway will have four platforms in the swamp, which cannot even be reached now. There will be four oil-drilling platforms after the causeways are built. They will do the work of four more drilling platforms. The platforms alone in this location would be of no use. The only solution was the causeway because the platform was built for the ocean. There was no way it could be installed in the swamp. Thanks to the causeway, the bases are now being built for four platforms. It is being built by two brigades organized as contingents with trucks. The cost will not exceed 2.5 million [currency not specified]. They are building the bases which would have cost 1 million rubles to build in the ocean. [sentence as heard] The time in which they have built the platforms is impressive. This made a good impression on me.

The impression that the Sixth Congress Contingent made is also very good.

[Journalist] The contingent at the airport?

[Castro] The construction contingent from Havana and the other ones there also left me with a good impression. The Villa Clara highway construction workers were also impressive. They are finishing the airport now. The runway.... [rephrases] They have practically finished the runway at the airport. They will also construct a highway this same year, the highway that connects with the airport. The highway will then continue through Matanzas.

We will organize a work force to build the viaduct here in Matanzas so that people won't have to cross the city to....

[Journalist, interrupting] That's good news for the people of Matanzas.

[Castro] Yes. We want to see how we can preserve and improve the beaches. How will we do all of this? It's a shame that little beach cannot be used because it is

polluted. It's the beach that is close to the mouth of the river. I was speaking with Luis Alvarez de la Nuez [first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Matanzas Province] on possible future solutions to prevent this type of contamination.

As you can see, there are some great projects here. One is finished at the port and two others are being constructed—the pipeline to the thermoelectric plant and the pipeline to Cienfuegos.

I have spoken here with those responsible for the airport. I have strongly stressed that security measures be increased to prevent any kind of accident that would lead to an oil spill in this area. Now that we have this super tanker base here, we have to increase security measures so that no environmental accident occurs. This is a vital matter and I have been discussing this here. What measures? All measures should be doubled or tripled. We have to continue to think about this. This is a very important matter because we have to think about the future.

[Journalist] Then you are satisfied, Commander?

[Castro] No, I'm not totally satisfied because everything entails risks [chuckles] but I do admire everyone's work. There are a number of dedicated people, technicians, skilled people, intelligent people that our country can count on. I have been able to see this throughout my island-wide tour which was brief but intense. I went from Villa Clara to Matanzas. I passed through Ciego de Avila, through Cayo Coco. I began in Sancti Spiritus and went to Ciego de Avila. I continued north to Villa Clara and then on to Matanzas. We are on our way back to the capital now where there is always something to do.

[Journalist] Thank you very much, Commander.

[Castro] Everything I've told you here is applicable to all the provinces I visited. The journalists are reporting on this. I think they will write about this because I was in all those locations and I think they probably got the same impressions. You are from Matanzas, right?

[Journalist] I am the Matanzas Province correspondent for NTV [National Television Newscast].

[Castro] Thank you very much for your cooperation. I think this will be an opportunity for the rest of the people to see what the workers are doing now.

[Journalist] OK, Commander.

Interior Ministry Directorate Inspects ID Cards

FL1005160089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] During the first quarter of 1989, the comrades of the Identification and Population Registration Directorate have made close to 10,900 visits to the CDRs [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution]. Their goal is to inspect the fulfillment of this system.

More than 3,000 violations have been detected thus far. The most common violations are not carrying the identification card, not being listed in the address registry, and not having a current photograph, which must be done at the ages of 25 and 40. [Video shows close up of identification cards]. Deteriorated identification cards have also been detected and there have been some cases where youths, who have reached the age of 12, do not have their pictures on their cards. These violators have been sanctioned with the appropriate fines, as established by law.

The visits are systematically being made throughout the country and this Interior Ministry directorate proposes to increase these visits this year. This will guarantee that each citizen has his current statistics up to date, in accordance with existing law.

Manzanillo Monument Honors Sanchez Manduley

FL1105020089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] A monument complex in honor of heroine Celia Sanchez Manduley was inaugurated in her native Manzanillo today, on her 66th birthday. The ceremony was presided over by Vilma Espin and Armando Hart Davalos, members of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo. [Video shows Espin, Hart, and young pioneers placing floral wreaths in front of the monument.] [passage omitted]

Villa Clara Meets Additional Sugar Goal

FL1005133289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The workers of Villa Clara yesterday met their additional sugar production goal, which exceeds 50,000 tons. They are the first in the country to meet this important commitment.

Caricom

Foreign Ministers End 2-Day Meeting in St Lucia

FL1005213889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2104 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 10, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) foreign ministers have ended their two-day meeting in Castries, agreeing to send a mission to investigate the situation in troubled Haiti, which has been seeking closer ties with the English-speaking group.

Foriegn minister of Belize, Dean Barrow, said that the ministers decided that instead of sending a foreign ministerial team to Haiti, they should first field an advanced mission which will engage in a fact finding exercise.

They said that depending on the results of that exercise, the foreign ministers would decide on an invitation that was issued to the outgoing chairman, Trinidad and Tobago's external affairs minister, Dr Sahadeo Basdeo.

Explaining the thinking behind the decision, Barrow said that the ministers are clearly going to be "very cautious" about sending signals that can be misinterpreted.

"What was very clear during the deliberations was that the ministers and Caricom countries need to be careful that while some encouragement needs to be offered to what appears to be steps being taken by the present government towards the path of re-democratization, Caricom cannot give the appearance of legitimizing a government in respect of which the jury (is still) out," Barrow said.

He said that it was in this light and that of reservations held by "particular countries" that the decision was made. Caribbean leaders are divided on the issue of closer ties with Haiti, some saying the government is not doing enough for democracy in the impoverished state, and others saying strides have been made.

"I thought we did very well in the circumstances to have agreed that Caricom foreign ministers would be prepared to field an advanced team that would visit Haiti and engage in some fact finding," Borrow said. The Belizian minister said that like all other recommendations the final decision will be made by the heads of government when they meet in July.

The ministers also looked at the illegal drugs business.

Barrow said they appreciated the fact that drug trafficking was of primary concern to all the territories, and took note of the efforts the Bahamas is making to deal with the problem where their territory is being used as a transshipment point. "Caricom ministers felt that there should be more international recognition of these steps that the Bahamas is taking."

The foreign ministers called for a hemispheric meeting of heads of government and top law enforcement officials to review regional drug policies, coordinate interdiction strategies, and establish guidelines for appropriate regional anti-drug training centres.

"There was also the feeling that the Caribbean Community ought to make more of an effort to share information among member states in respect of the fight against drug trafficking and to coordinate their activities in this regard," he said.

Development Bank Reviews Regional Economy

FL1005153989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 10, CANA—Caribbean economies recorded generally lower economic growth last year, and the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] on Wednesday advised that greater attention was needed to bolster efficiency and reduce costs, particularly in the tourism, sugar, and bananas sectors.

In its 1988 annual report, the bank said the decline was indicative of stagnation in some of the major regional economies, with real gross domestic product in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago falling by three percent and 3.8 percent respectively.

The report was released to coincide with the opening of the 19th annual meeting of the CDB's board of governors in Trinidad.

The bank said production in most sectors of the Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana economies declined.

With the exception of St Lucia, the bank said, its borrowing member countries reported either lower or negative real growth rates.

A relatively strong growth trend in Jamaica was reversed in September following devastation by Hurricane Gilbert, the CDB reported, adding that economic growth in Jamaica was estimated to be between one and two percent.

The bank however remarked that despite the declines in real output levels, "...the economies of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the British dependencies remained robust."

The British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Montserrat all achieve real growth of 10 percent, while in Anguilla and Antigua and Barbuda the gain was at least six percent.

Tourism and construction dominated economic performances last year, the bank said.

It noted, however, that while visitor arrivals appeared to have increased by an average 3 to 3.5 percent in 1988, it was still considerably lower than the 10 percent of 1987.

"Investment in upgrading cruise ship facilities together with an increase in hotel room accommodations, and a spate of commercial and residential housing construction all contributed to construction being one of the fastest growing sectors," the bank said.

All banana producing countries, except for Jamaica, reported increased output. Production of sugar and other agricultural commodities increased marginally or declined because of unfavourable weather conditions and labour shortages.

"Overall, however, the sectors earnings benefitted from the relative strength of sterling against the dollar," the CDB report said.

Hopes for a stimulation of trade following bilateral arrangements between Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago to remove the stamp duty on imports faded when Trinidad and Tobago, one of the largest markets in the region, devalued its currency.

Inflation remained relatively stable throughout the region, ranging from two percent to five percent.

The bank however noted, "In some countries, where tight labour markets were emerging as economic activity accelerated, there was also evidence of increasing pressure on domestic wages, and consequently on domestic production costs."

On the balance of payments, the CDB said its borrowing member countries recorded a slight reduction of current deficits, which it linked to tourism and higher sugar and bananas export revenues, due to an appreciation of sterling against the U.S. dollar.

The CDB said economic performance is expected to improve in 1989 despite the expected slackening of activity in the industrialised countries.

Most countries in the region were projecting an expansion in production, but the bank added that an increase in export earnings will depend significantly on the continuation by the industrialised countries of policies to reduce currency volatility.

The CDB counselled: "Greater attention needs to be given to improving efficiency and reducing costs, particularly in the tourist industry which is already losing market share to lower-priced destinations and the protected banana and sugar industries in preparation for the EEC's (European Community) move to a single market by 1992."

"In this regard," the bank added, "the agreement by Caricom (Carribean Community) countries to remove all barriers to intraregional trade augurs well for an expansion of trade within the region."

Dominican Republic

Jorge Blanco Trial Continues in Santo Domingo

FL1005122989 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The trial of former Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco is continuing in Santo Domingo. Only 3 of the expected 54 witnesses have testified so far in the case. The judge in the case, Juan Severino, says he's concerned about what he calls unnecessary repetition of questions to witnesses by Mr Jorge Blanco. Mr Severino says the former president may be trying to prolong the trial.

Man Killed During 9 May 24-Hour General Strike

FL1005122489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Schools, stores, and public transportation were shut down yesterday in the Dominican Republic. The 24-hour general strike was called to protest rising food prices. One man died in a clash with police yesterday. The incident took place during a demonstration in the capital, Santo Domingo. Police say the killing was accidental.

Organizers of yesterday's strike are asking President Joaquin Balaguer's government to take immediate measures against inflation which is running at about 30 percent since the beginning of the year.

Sergeant Said Responsible

FL1005210089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1938 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The Dominican Republic police reported today that Secret Service Sergeant Maximo Castro is responsible for the death of a young demonstrator during a day of antigovernment protests. The police version indicates that the sergeant attempted to arrest the young man, not identified so far, and that during a struggle between them the agent's gun went off shooting the student in the head.

The incident took place yesterday in front of a Santo Domingo public school in the middle of a wave of protests in the entire country called by the National Conference of Popular Organizations composed by the Committees of Popular Struggle and other community-based organizations.

Dominican Republic has experienced a state of popular unrest for several weeks. This was exacerbated by homemade bomb explosions that resulted in the death of two children in recent days.

Haiti

Violence on International Red Cross Day Noted

FL1005195689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 May 89

[Report by Yves-Marie Jasmin—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Monday, 8 May, International Red Cross Day, there was much bloodshed in the 1st communal section [of Miragoane], in the place known as Savane Ouest, at a clairin [a type of alcohol that, when further distilled, becomes rum] factory, where armed robbers appeared a few minutes after midnight and used a .38-caliber revolver to shoot and kill a watchman named Senais Doquefard. A witness named Lucien said the armed men asked to be allowed to search the office of notary Joseph Auguste because they thought they might find money. The watchman, who panicked and yelled for help, was shot a few times and died instantly.

According to the owner of the clairin factory, notary Joseph Auguste, these thieves are the most stupid thieves he has ever seen. He cannot understand how they could think a notary would give a watchman money to keep, for him, in a communal section.

Also on Monday, 8 May, at 0100, a few armed men appeared at a house in Savane Ouest, and, according to 42-year-old Mrs Noel, killed her husband, 20-year-old Jean Renel Noel. They shot him a few times in the chest with a .38-caliber revolver. They stole more than $8,000 from the house. They also raped Mrs Noel. At around 0800 on Monday, 8 May, the police and Justice of the Peace Wilfrid Anglade went to the scene of the crime to write up a formal report.

On that same day, we met with Jean-Claude Lindor, an employee of CAT, Crusade Against (?Tuberculosis), who informed us that a white Honda (?CT) 125-cc motorcyle had been stolen from his house. The motorcycle belongs to CAT.

Lindor said he saw the thieves cart off the motorcycle, chains and all. Because the bandits were armed, he chose to say nothing.

Finally, many people are complaining that every citizen needs to have a weapon at home to defend himself and his family, but that the relevant offices take too long to issue a permit to do this. [passage omitted]

Petion-Ville Drivers Union Threatens Strike

FL1105122789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] The Petion-Ville drivers union, which is affiliated to FOS, the Federation of Workers Trade Unions, is asking the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications to state its position on the matter of the Bourdon [a section of Port-au-Prince] Bridge. The road has been closed for several weeks so that work on the bridge could begin. However, the work has never begun. Meanwhile, the Reinbold road detour is causing problems for drivers, passengers, and vehicles transiting the area.

Here in Haiti, health care, vehicles, and spare parts are expensive. Spare parts, if you can find them, are very expensive! Thus, we drivers are giving the ministry until 14 May to state its position on this matter. If it fails to do so, as of Monday 15 May, we drivers will stop work outright, according to the union press release. [passage omitted]

'Banditry' Increases in Capital, Provinces

FL1105122689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] There is ever-increasing banditry in Haiti. Once again, Port-au-Prince and provincial towns are living a nightmare. Not a single night goes by without either individuals clad in olive green or armed civilians murdering someone, raping someone, or making off with all of someone's possessions. Crimes and acts of banditry have almost become habitual in Haiti.

No one lifts a finger to stop this. The police presence is absent. The Justice Department is no more present than the police. Meanwhile, all kinds of thieves are in action. [passage omitted]

Jacmel Radio, TV Station Runs Test Broadcasts

FL1105122889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] In Jacmel, Radio-Tele Express Continentale—the property of Eng Jean Verdieux—has begun test broadcasts. The first test broadcasts took place from 1 to 7 May and will continue every weekend throughout the month of May.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Leader Comments on Election Violence

FL1005134589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1725 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, May 9, CANA—Leader of the opposition St Vincent Labour Party, Vincent Beache, says he does not know how much longer he can restrain his party supporters in the wake of what he called increased pre-election violence here.

"I am not sure how much longer I can contain the Labour Party supporters," Beache said. "Your people are getting very incensed. I want the police commissioner to know that if he really means that we should have a violence-free election then he'll have to do something and he must be impartial; this partiality cannot go on."

Beache said that his party's motorcade last Sunday was pelted with bottles and stones, and a girl was injured, while a man sustained a cut and the windscreen of a vehicle was smashed.

"We had to restrain our people. It is not that we cannot retaliate...and this is what I am bothered about because once we start retaliating we are going to have a very violent situation," the opposition leader said.

He felt that the absence of police at the motorcade was deliberate.

Commissioner Randolph Toussaint was unavailable for comment and his deputy declined to speak about the issue.

The commissioner is however on record as saying that he is worried about the incidence of election violence and has promised to do whatever is necessary to have it contained.

Vincentians go to the polls next Tuesday.

Costa Rica

Government Says Panamanian People 'Betrayed'

PA1105032289 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A communique issued by the Costa Rican Government this afternoon states that Costa Rica cannot remain silent in view of the mockery that has been made of the Panamanian people's will, in an election that the people had optimistically hoped would bring freedom without violence. The Panamanian people have been betrayed. In response, the Costa Rican Government has announced that it will promote—on the strength of its long history of freedom and peace—a struggle by all democratic countries in America and the world to ensure that the Panamanian people's will be respected.

The Council of Ministers agreed today at midday that the government should issue a statement on the situation in Panama after hearing a report by Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] Justice Rafael Villegas. In view of the incidents they observed after the Panamanian elections, the Costa Rican TSE justices decided to go public with a report that was to be kept private.

At dawn on Monday there were reports that polling stations had been attacked and that vote tally sheets had been stolen, which the TSE justices took as proof that the Panama Defense Forces would disregard the people's will; thus, they decided to publish the report. The purpose of this report is to prevent the legitimization of a government that not only did not win the necessary votes, but grossly manipulated the election results, the TSE justices' document states.

When COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] leaders and the government began to receive the election returns, which overwhelmingly favored the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] headed by Endara, they decided to continuously harass the members of the Vote-Counting Board. Vote tally sheets were stolen and electricity was cut off in large sectors of Panama City, causing panic among those counting the votes and facilitating the withdrawal of vote tally sheets, the TSE's document states.

In view of this situation, the justices—who were invited by Panama's Electoral Tribunal President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez to observe the elections, decided to reveal what they had observed. The Costa Rican Government is now condemning the situation in Panama.

After meeting for over 2 hours with former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio and several Costa Rican observers who observed the Panamanian elections on Sunday, on Tuesday afternoon the government issued a communique demanding respect for the people's will. (?The government has not yet issued) its statement on the Panamanian elections, which has prompted speculation that President Oscar Arias' administration will take a firm position. Former President Rodrigo Carazo said that Latin American democracies should assume the moral responsibility of monitoring the results of the Panamanian elections.

Acting Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera Bianchini says that the new Costa Rican ambassador to Panama is still in Costa Rica and will not be sent to Panama until the situation in that neighboring country is resolved. As of 1 May, (Jorge Regidor Maten), former secretary of the Council of Ministers, was designated ambassador to Panama, but Costa Rica's diplomatic relations in Panama are currently being handled by the charge d'affaires, which could be interpreted as a cooling of relations between the two countries.

Information Minister Fernandez Resigns

PA1005044489 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0115 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Guido Fernandez resigned as information minister to return to private life. Fernandez' resignation as information minister under President Arias was confirmed this afternoon by a copy of his letter of resignation submitted to the president.

Fernandez Saborio, who resigned as government minister to assume the post of ambassador in Washington and later returned as information minister, will return to private life. Fernandez explained in his letter of resignation that he had offered to serve the government for a 3-year period, which ends this month. He will leave his post on 15 May. I feel better as a person and enriched as a writer for having done this. I leave public office and political life to return to the private sector of communications with three editorial projects, the information minister stated in his letter of resignation. He said that he will dedicate himself to writing three books on challenges to Central American peace, press ethics, and the Arias government, which he hopes to complete as soon as possible. I return to these editorial tasks and to resume my work as a journalist, which is what I want, the minister stated.

USSR Ambassador on Nicaraguan Arms Shipments

PA1005030589 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1850 GMT 8 May 89

[Report on statements by Soviet Ambassador to Costa Rica Vadim L. Rozanov; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in San Jose is celebrating 45 years of diplomatic relations with Costa Rica. A ceremony to mark this occasion was held at the Soviet Embassy in one of San Jose's most exclusive residential areas. The embassy has all the modern comforts, including a swimming pool, and is elegantly and expensively decorated.

The ambassador of that communist nation in our country, Vadim L. Rozanov, noted the excellent diplomatic, political, and economic relations that have existed between the two countries over the years. He also stressed the existing trade agreements on coffee and sugar, which have greatly benefited Costa Rica.

Rozanov conceded that under the terms of a political agreement, the Soviet Union supplies arms to Nicaragua, and—in a contradiction—he said his country supports the Esquipulas peace plan, but that it has no specific interests in the region. This is what he had to say:

[Rozanov] "The Soviet Union is well aware of the efforts of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, to achieve peace in the region. We have declared more than once, including at the highest level, that we support the Esquipulas agreement. The Soviet Union does not have specific interests in the region, and it is prepared to respect all the agreements achieved or to be achieved by the Central American governments and to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Central America."

Nevertheless, when the journalists questioned him on this, the contradictions became evident:

[Rozanov] "We have diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, and we have signed many agreements—not only cultural and political agreements, but also trade agreements. According to these agreements, we send some things to Nicaragua any way we can. Naturally, we also send some weapons, according to the agreements. We send these weapons only to Nicaragua."

Ambassador Rozanov and Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera expressed the desire to continue to enhance these diplomatic relations for the benefit of both nations.

El Salvador

FMLN Attacks 15 Towns, Inflicts 40 Casualties

PA1005141289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1344 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 May (AFP)—In a last-minute radio report, Salvadoran guerrilla movement spokesmen have reported that the Salvadoran rebel movement attacked 15 towns early this morning in various parts of the country, inflicting at least 40 casualties on government forces.

In a preliminary report about the surprising guerrilla actions, the Salvadoran Army confirmed that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) attacked eight towns.

The guerrillas attacked towns in 7 of the 14 Salvadoran departments located in central, eastern, and western El Salvador.

The report on the rebel attacks, "which were carried out in response to the political repression promoted by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA)" that will become the government on 1 June, was broadcast by the clandestine Radio Venceremos in its first broadcast this morning.

Further on Rebel Attacks

PA1005164089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1210 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Concerning a last-minute report international news agencies are attributing to a clandestine Radio Venceremos announcement of an operation concerning attacks against several military garrisons in various parts of the country, we interviewed Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander in chief of the 3d Infantry Brigade stationed in San Miguel. We contacted him by telephone, as follows:

[Begin recording] [Sorto] Colonel, is it true that this is part of a regional or national operation to attack the Nationalist Republican Alliance?

[Vargas] I do not know if this is part of a regional or national operation. All I know is that these are treacherous, cowardly actions, because they are afraid of confronting the soldiers, the 3d Infantry Brigade military units. In San Miguel, there were five explosions in open areas about 2 to 3 km apart. There were no casualties or material damage inflicted on the 3d Infantry Brigade or its installations. They hit some fuel tanks filled with about 3,000 gallons of gasoline, which started a fire. However, the fires were in open areas, so there have been no casualties or material damage to the installations.

[Sorto] The FMLN claims it seized El Salitre estate and, from there, attacked the 3d Infantry Brigade.

[Vargas] El Salitre estate was not occupied. An old shack on the estate was set on fire, b[illegible]he fire department controlled the fire. I think these ar[illegible]he great revolutionary victories the FMLN talks about: attacks against fixed installations that contain no military units, where not even peasants are sleeping at the time. I believe this is where the FMLN says it fights heroically for 4 hours to burn seven patches of crops and how it claims it heroically fights to down electric towers, which are stationary objects. These are the only great actions it carries out, but these actions are against fixed targets that cannot move. I repeat, these are cowardly actions that do not confront the soldiers who represent the military abilities of the government and the country.

[Sorto] Do you have any units combing the area?

[Vargas] Yes, definitely, we have men in the area. The truth is that at 0200 today, units were being mobilized. As I said, these are cowardly actions, carried out in the dark, and the FMLN flees when it sees our well-trained men in military uniform. That is all I have to say.

[Sorto] You have permanent guards for San Miguel. Some of the market vendors told us for the first time, not a single shot was heard.

[Vargas] Yes, that is right. As I said, there have not been any attacks or harassment, just five explosive devices, which does not represent any changes in the correlation of military forces. The people of San Miguel should be calm; we will provide them with security. The people of the eastern area of the country should be calm, because we will increase our abilities and efforts to provide them with all the security possible. The FMLN will have to pay for being so audacious.

[Sorto] The FMLN said it was fighting in Berlin and Alegria.

[Vargas] We have no knowledge of any action in Berlin and Alegria. We have reports that in San Ildefonso, San Vicente Department, south of Cabanas, there were problems because the National Guard, which we support throughout the national territory, reported that some catapults had been fired. However, nothing else happened, and I have no reports of any action in other places.

[Sorto] Today is Mother's Day.

[Vargas] Yes, definitely, greetings to all mothers. Have faith and hope that your sons are here—from the general to the last soldier—and they love you very much and are working for you, so you will have the peace and tranquility you need as mothers to generate love and courage for each of your sons. On behalf of all your sons, the soldiers, to all mothers of the eastern area and of El Salvador: Receive love and kisses. [end recording]

More on 10 May Attack

PA1005192689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1718 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 May (EFE)—Rebel sources have reported that the Salvadoran guerrilla movement today inflicted almost 100 casualties on the Salvadoran Army during attacks on 15 towns in 7 departments.

Radio Venceremos, the FMLN official radio station, said the rebels attacked the guards who watch over the town of Tejutepeque in the northeastern department of Cabanas, inflicting 90 casualties, including dead or wounded.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces, which confirmed the attack, indicated that the rebels sustained 19 casualties, including dead and wounded, while 3 soldiers were killed and 6 wounded in a 2-hour clash that took place in Tejutepeque, 60 km northwest of San Salvador.

According to the rebels, an officer and a sergeant were killed in the Tejutepeque attack, which began early in the morning of 10 May.

The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, played down the rebel attack and admitted another three Army casualties and the death of one guerrilla during various attacks on Army positions throughout the country.

The first guerrilla military bulletin broadcast by the clandestine radio station did not report any rebel casualties.

The new rebel offensive announced in April is called "Everybody Against the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and To Struggle for Peace." With that offensive the rebels intend to destabilize the new government of president-elect Alfredo Cristiani, who is an ARENA leader.

Cristiani will assume the Presidency on 1 June and will be replacing Christian Democratic President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The rebel station added that another three casualties were inflicted on troops of Military Detachment No 3, who watch over the town of Anamoros in the eastern department of La Union.

Military spokesmen asserted that one guerrilla was killed during the attack on military positions in Chirilagua, San Miguel Department.

A fuel pump was destroyed by shrapnel from explosive devices hurled by guerrillas against a garrison of the 3d Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Miguel, the country's third most important city.

Colonel Mauricio Vargas, commander of the 3d Brigade, said the rebel attacks are "actions carried out under the cover of darkness and are treacherous and cowardly acts because the rebels are afraid to face the soldiers who represent the government and the country's military power."

Vargas said the rebels did not inflict casualties on or cause damage to the garrison.

The guerrillas also attacked the soldiers guarding two coffee mills in Santiago de Maria, Usulutan Department. They did not inflict any casualties.

Radio Venceremos reported that the rebels destroyed the municipal office, a gasoline staton, and the civil defense post in El Congo, Santa Ana Department.

According to military sources, three members of the so-called civil defense were wounded when their post was attacked in a village near Metapan, Santa Ana Department.

A military source added that a telecommunications office was destroyed and five houses damaged by explosives in Aguilares, in San Salvador's northern suburb.

The rebels said they attacked military positions in Chalatenango, San Vicente, La Paz, and Morazan Departments in northern, central, and northwestern El Salvador, respectively, without inflicting any casualties on government troops.

Army Reports Casualties

PA1005202789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1725 GMT 10 May 89

[Report by Mauricio Hernandez Bolanos]

[Text] The Armed Forces have reported that the guerrillas have suffered 25 to 27 casualties, including dead and wounded, in clashes that took place in San Pedro Nonualco, in northeastern La Paz Department this morning. The action began at 0500, and clashes are still occurring. We have been told that the Army has the situation virtually under control. The Army reports that one soldier was killed and three were seriously wounded. The wounded were taken to the military hospital in San Salvador.

Military Bulletin Issued

PA1105024889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0008 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] We have a lengthy military bulletin for today, the day we started the "All Against ARENA Let's Struggle for Peace" operation. We have military reports from 12 departments. We will start with the eastern area.

Attacks on government troops in Alegria, Usulutan Department, occurred at 0500 on 10 May. After 5 hours of combat, our forces occupied the village, captured two soldiers, and seized an M-60 machinegun. A helicopter was also damaged. We will report about this aircraft later. In addition, at 0200 our forces attacked the 3d Infantry Brigade barracks in San Miguel with 81-mm and 60-mm mortar shells, 21 shells of which hit the barracks. One of the shells exploded in the helicopter fuel storage tank, setting it on fire. This large fire made air operations in the eastern zone difficult. In addition, and outwitting the 3d Brigade defense, the El Salitre ranch was occupied. On the ranch, located on the outskirts of El Garzon, 15 heads of cattle were shot. The meat was distributed to the area's workers and residents. This was the report from the eastern area.

This is now the report from the northeastern area. At 0500, we started an attack on the Morazan Battalion stationed at Cacaopera and succeeded in making them flee at 0700. Our forces stayed in the village until 1000. The Armed Forces sustained three wounded. At 0230, FMLN forces attacked Ponce Battalion positions in Sesori with homemade weapons and rifle fire. The clash here lasted until 0900. The battalion sustained three casualties. The Army's reinforcements sent from Chapeltique sustained one casualty in San Jeronimo.

At 0500, we attacked the Nonualco Battalion in San Luis de la Reina, San Miguel. The clash lasted until 1000, when three A-37 airplanes, two helicopter gunships, and one C-47 plane showed up. Our forces fired on these aircraft. On the ground, it was confirmed the enemy sustained 12 casualties. Also, one of our comrades lost his life here.

At 0530, we attacked the Caguatique Battalion in Delicias de Concepcion, Morazan Department, where we fought until 1030. We inflicted six casualties on the enemy here. Early in the morning, we occupied Yamabal and Sensenbra, where we stayed until 0900. Clashes with the Army continued in Guatajiagua.

This is now a report from La Union Department. At 0500, we engaged the enemy in Anamoros, where we inflicted three casualties. At 1030, we attacked enemy positions in the north of El Aguacate and Cerro Nube, Corinto jurisdiction, where we inflicted one casualty. Antipersonnel mines planted at a roadblock inflicted another casualty on the enemy. More roadblocks were erected between Cacaopera and Lolotiquillo. At 0740, we attacked the Marines in El Carrizal, Jucuaran, inflicting six casualties. In addition, we attacked Lempa Battalion positions at Santiago de Maria and damaged a helicopter at 0400. We inflicted 12 casualties on the enemy in this attack. We partially destroyed the Lourdes and Marquesado coffee processing plants. The enemy company commander abandoned his men during the clash. Our antiaircraft guns opened fire on a UH-1H helicopter, damaging it seriously. The helicopter flew away.

This is now the report from the paracentral zone. At 0245, we attacked National Guard forces at San Ildefonso. At 0530, the enemy had retreated to the village park. At 0700, we confirmed having inflicted 13 casualties on the National Guard and 3 on the paramilitary forces. At 0600 on Wednesday, an FMLN battalion started a search-and-destroy operation against a National Guard company on the outskirts of Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department. The rebel forces attacked these positions with 300 hand grenades and machine and rifle fire. In this operation, an estimated 40 casualties were inflicted on the enemy, including National Guard Lieutenant Arriaga, a sergeant, and a radio operator. The enemy High Command failed to send reinforcements.

At 0645, clashes still continued in Ilobasco, Cabanas Department. Also today, we ambushed National Guard members between San Sebastian and Santo Domingo. We inflicted four casualties on the enemy and destroyed one vehicle. Eight other casualties were inflicted in a separate action. At 0630 on Wednesday, our forces ambushed an armored personnel carrier in Santa Paula, Queazaltepeque, on the Pan-American Highway. The enemy sustained five casualties, and the vehicle was completely destroyed. At 0600, we killed a member of the 5th Brigade in Flores de Tepeya, San Vicente Department. All of these clashes occurred in broad daylight.

This is now a report from the Modesto Ramirez central front. At 0300 on 10 May, we started an attack on enemy positions in San Ignacio and at the El Pollo border checkpost. Guerrillas occupied kilometer 27 on the northern highway, destroying two electric towers. At 0100, our forces ambushed a Treasury Police patrol near Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango. The enemy sustained five casualties. Another ambush was sprung between Santa Tecla and Los Chorros at 1700 on 9 May. We inflicted seven casualties on the enemy. At 0730 on 10 May, we ambushed a Treasury Police patrol riding a truck on the northern trunk highway. The enemy sustained 13 casualties, and the truck was completely destroyed.

We have a report from Tejutla. At 2300 yesterday, our forces began an attack against a 4th Infantry Brigade company. In this attack, the enemy sustained an estimated 27 casualties. A PRC-77 radio set was seized, and two M-60 machineguns were destroyed. At 0730, ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] installations in Aguilares were sabotaged. On the northern highway at 0630, a military truck headed for 4th Brigade positions was ambushed at El Coyolito. The truck was destroyed, and the enemy sustained an estimated 10 casualties. At 1015 on 10 May, a guerrilla unit damaged a UH-1S helicopter gunship. At 1100, an enemy company was reinforced with Relampago Battalion troops sent from south of Lilingo. These troops were also attacked by our men. As the result of this action on the outkirts of Suchitoto, the Pantera Battalion of the National Police sustained an estimated nine casualties. The Relampago Battalion sustained two dead and three wounded. In all, the enemy sustained 14 casualties, and a helicopter was damaged.

This is now a report from the Feliciano Ama Western Front. Enemy positions, reinforced with 2d Infantry Brigade soldiers from El Congo, Santa Ana Department, were attacked at 0330 on 10 May. The Civilian Defense barracks, the mayor's office, and a Chevron gasoline station were damaged. Our men estimate eight enemy casualties. After these attacks, an antiaircraft unit opened fire on a helicopter gunship overflying the area and hit it at 0730 while it was flying above El Roble, Metapan. The aircraft, belching smoke, flew away.

Guatemala

Commentary Says Military Coup d'Etat 'Foiled'

FL1005201889 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo's government, (?promoter) of Guatemala's democratization process, foiled a military coup d'etat Tuesday that, superficially, was similar to the one foiled on 11 May 1988. However, Tuesday's coup d'etat took place with a substantially different situation, marked by a serious economic crisis, dramatic insecurity on the part of the people, and the growing deterioration of the president's image. Under these circumstances, Tuesday's military coup becomes even more serious, especially in a country where dictatorships [caudillismo] have traditionally prevailed. Therefore, damage to the president's image means damage to the political system, democracy.

It is still too early to say what lesson the democratization process can learn from the foiled coup, but it seems likely that the the ruling party, in general, and especially the president, will have to change their ways in order to prevent situations like the one we saw on Tuesday from reoccurring in the future, and to have a better chance of succeeding.

Opposition groups and dissidents in the ruling party have repeatedly said that the government lost its sense of direction and that never, like today, the [words indistinct] mistaken economic policy in which the traditionally powerful sectors get richer while the poor must work harder each day to overcome the poverty that prevails in most Guatemalan homes.

The government has been charged, and in this sense the Episcopal Conference has been very clear, of being a source of corruption [words indistinct] to hold key government positions. The uncontrollable wave of violence upsets everyone and hinders the country's economic activity because it scares off possible investors. In the near future, there is no sign that the government may do something to solve this situation. If to this we were to add the charges that the government is using government money to pay for the ruling party's political campaign and ensure another term in office, then we see before us a picture that does not contribute to the establishment of a system for which thousands of Guatemalans have died in the past few years, and the phantom of.... [4-second break in reception].

The fact that Tuesday's coup failed does not mean that democracy has been strengthened. Democracy will be strengthened the day that everyone, even the highest ranking government official, respects the principles that guide a de jure state. Only President Cerezo will have the last word.

It is time to stop and think. This situation also deserves our immediate attention.

Congressional Resolution Condemns Attempted Coup

FL1005212589 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 10 May 89 p 5

["Text" of resolution issued by the National Congress on 9 May; signed by the Christian Democracy, Revolutionary Party, National Organized Union, National Renewal Party, Union of the National Center, Solidarity Action Movement, Democratic Socialist Party, and Nationalist Authentic Central]

[Text] The National Congress, aware of its responsibility to democratic and institutional order and faced with the historic events that are taking place, reiterates:

Its total and determined support of the country's institutions, of the legal system that should exist in every democratic nation, and of the electoral system, which is the only legitimate tool to effect a change of rulers;

Its rejection of any attempt to disrupt institutional order, as this would lead the country to a confrontation that would be detrimental to the Guatemalan people, whom we represent and to whom we owe our positions.

We call on all sectors to reflect so as to maintain stable, permanent, and popular institutional order, a situation in which both those who rule and those who are ruled can act in strict accordance with the law.

Issued at the National Congress, 9 May 1989

Army Lists Names of May Coup Sponsors

FL1005205189 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 10 May 89 p 6

[Press release No 0054-89 issued by the Army in Guatemala City on 9 May]

[Text] The Guatemalan Army advises the people that today at 0400 there was an attempt to disrupt constitutional order. The attempt, carried out by four officers expelled from the Armed Forces following the 11 May 1988 incidents, five officers who feel they have been overlooked, and three officers who had been discharged from the Army, was immediately controlled without regrettable consequences.

The discharged officers are: Captain Jesus Adalberto de la Pena Corado, a Guatemalan Air Force pilot; Colonel Julio Padilla Gonzalez, second in command of the Guatemalan Air Force Tactical Security Group; and Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Augusto Mendez Tobias, discharged from the Army's General Headquarters.

The discharged officers who feel they have been overlooked are: Air Force Colonel Juan Adenolfo Galvez del Cid, Colonel Cesar Ramon Quinteros Alvarado, Colonel Francisco Castellanos Gongora, and Colonel Raul Debesa Oliva, who were working for COPECODECA [Permanent Commission of the Central American Defense Council], as well as Navy Captain Romeo Guevara Reyes, former general director of the National Police.

The officers expelled following the 11 May 1988 movement and involved in this attempted coup d'etat are: Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Padilla Morales, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Mazariegos Ramirez, Major Gustavo Adolfo Diaz Lopez, and Captain Allan Castellanos Reyes. All those involved in the attempted coup were arrested, except for Col Castellanos Gongora and Capt Castellanos Reyes, who remain at large.

Guatemala City, 9 May 1989

Nicaragua

'U.S. Interference' in Panama Condemned

PA1005220889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2125 GMT 10 May 89

["Text" of communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 10 May]

[Text] Even before the Panamanian elections were held, the Bush administration had begun a campaign to discredit the elections on the premise that the only way to consider the process as being clean and fair would be if the opposition obtained a victory.

The purpose of this was to turn the United States into a judge of the election processes in our region.

In view of the above, the United States intends to invalidate the Torrijos-Carter treaties, arguing that it cannot turn over the administration of the Panama Canal to dictator Noriega.

To achieve its goals, the United States intends to use certain governments of the region to strengthen its position and to weaken the Panamanian Government's efforts to allow its people to achieve self-determination.

All of this is a flagrant violation of the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of a country and of the principle of self-determination. It is also a violation of Panamanian sovereignty because of the arrogant way in which the so-called U.S. Government observers came into the country.

That is why we must reject this U.S. position by emphasizing that the election results should only matter to the Panamanian people. We must respect this.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry and the Nicaraguan people call upon all Latin American peoples not to be the instruments of the United States in the creation of a Latin American bloc that would approve open U.S. interference.
Managua, Nicaragua
10 May 1989

EPS Still on 'Maximum Alert' for U.S. Action

PA1005135389 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1211 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce Castano, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's National Directorate, has said the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] continues to be in a state of maximum alert in view of the threat of U.S. Army intervention in Panama. He added that the United States has taken upon itself the role of judge of the recent elections.

Arce Castano said the risk that hovers over Panama affects all Latin America. He noted that this is extremely dangerous; today the United States has assumed the role of the great judge of democracy in Panama, and tomorrow it could do the same in Argentina, Peru, or Nicaragua.

Regarding the election results, Arce Castano said that he gives credence to the Spanish Gallup enterprise, according to which the National Liberation Coalition headed by Carlos Duque has won the elections.

H. Ortega on Panama, Domestic Situations

PA1005151389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 May 89 p 4

[Text] At a news conference for national and international media, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega unmasked U.S. plans for aggression against Panama through blackmail, threats, provocations, and disturbances that could lead to a direct intervention of Southern Command troops in Panama.

Ortega expressed Nicaragua's solidarity with the patriotic and anti-imperialist pro-Torrijos cause of the Panamanian people. He compared the present U.S. intervention to that against Nicaragua over the last 8 years.

After appealing to Latin America on the plot that defames and discredits beforehand the results of the elections being held in Panama today, he urged the Latin American governments and peoples not to fall into the trap of isolating Panama and "not to fight like cats and dogs" on the continent, which is the goal of the U.S. plan.

Humberto said: For several weeks, we have known of preparations to stage disturbances that would facilitate warlike plans, because the reactionaries have seen their plans vanquished by the majority of the people, who continue voting in practice for Torrijism, freedom, independence, and dignity.

Among the preparations the defense minister listed is an increase in the number of flights over Nicaragua's northern border, while in Panama the plans include taking over the international airport and attacks on several garrisons, such as the Chiriqui garrison. In Nicaragua, they have hastened the introduction of mercenary units for offensive actions in this situation.

Gen Ortega said the United States has continued to encourage crime and boycotts, as proved by the latest criminal attack by its mercenaries on Friday at 0400. During this attack, one EPS lieutenant and two soldiers were killed, and four other soldiers were wounded.

This attack took place 17 km southwest of Rancho Grande in Matagalpa Department, and was carried out by 15 September Regional Command forces. The victims were identified as Lieutenant Bernardo Arauz and soldiers Darlin Suazo Aviles and Abelino Meza Borge.

The implementation of the CIA plan for aggression from Panama to Nicaragua or vice versa, Ortega said, coincides with the role imperialism has ordered its spokesmen and lackeys to play in an attempt to derail the people's election effort, which these lackeys are trying to tarnish and render illegitimate through the investment of millions of dollars.

Ortega also talked about the training of over 30 mercenary pilots on A-37 planes, which are of secondary importance to the Honduran Army because of its acquisition of F-15 planes from the Pentagon.

"All this lies within the framework of the threats and blackmail the United States is carrying out against Panama," he said.

Ortega also announced that contra forces on the southern border, in Costa Rican territory, are receiving logistical support that allows them to act against the people and create "operational-tactical divisiveness" within the EPS.

Ortega, who is also a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front National Directorate, asked the Nicaraguan people to actively show their solidarity in view of the difficult times in Panama.

He said: "We are alerting you because a terrorist action leading to a direct intervention would worsen the already serious situation in Central America," where Washington is determined to carry out its policies to overthrow the Sandinists and invalidate the efforts of the area's progressive forces.

Ortega explained President Daniel Ortega's efforts to strengthen his diplomatic, political, and negotiating efforts, but he warned that Nicaragua will not yield to blackmail "regardless of how strong and well-armed the United States is." Nevertheless, immediately after making this statement Ortega admitted to being willing to hold dignified negotiations that will help solve Central America's problems; the United States alone, he said, must be blamed for these problems.

Ortega said "Nicaragua will not change its views regarding the U.S aggression," even if in the future only one Nicaraguan died every month. He emphasized that even though the war's intensity has waned, Nicaraguans are still dying, kidnappings and murders continue, and thousands have been maimed and cannot receive proper treatment, thanks to the aggression.

Answering several reporters' questions, Ortega said there are approximately 8,000 contras in Honduran territory who are kept in the dark, live under pressure, and whose mid-level commands have been given the hope that the imperialists might eventually increase contra aid.

Nicaragua will be waiting for the results of the Panamanian elections and we will maintain relations with the government that is elected; we will not issue any conditions, Ortega replied.

When answering a question from a U.S. journalist concerning alleged plans by General Manuel Antonio Noriega against the Nicaraguan leadership, Ortega emphatically said that "Yankee Marines and Presidents" have been the only ones who have assassinated Nicaraguans in their entire history.

Radio Catolica's Power Cut, Restored

PA1005200589 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1831 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Radio Catolica was closed once again. This time it was not closed by the Media Directorate, but by the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, INE, which claims that Radio Catolica owes 5 million cordobas. Therefore, it cut off electricity to the church's radio station.

We have an interview with Radio Catolica Director Msgr Bismarck Carballo regarding this new incident:

[Begin recording] [Carballo] First, we are pleased to know that the church has a media for the [word indistinct]. Second, I have the impression that someone in the INE arbitrarily made the decision to cut off electricity without taking into consideration the consequences. Some time between 0600 and 0700 power was again restored and the radio station came back on the air. As we have said earlier, we are not interested in being lax in our payments. We are paying our bills as they come in. The last two bills have just come in and we will pay them. We want them to know that we do not want to make late payments.

We hope the INE can not only guarantee us electricity service, but also control its voltage as well, because our transmitters have suffered some damage.

[Reporter] I understand that the amount of money INE says Radio Catolica owes is not true.

[Carballo] Yes, I believe that the INE has not kept good computer records, because we paid our bills in March. This included the money owed as of February. March and April were still outstanding, and the money we owe for those 2 months is around 3 million cordobas. However, INE was charging us 5 million cordobas, which I believe includes the bills we have already paid. [end recording]

RN Claims Sandinists Violating Cease-Fire

PA1105035289 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2345 GMT 10 May 89

[Report on "war bulletin" issued by the Nicaraguan Resistance from the Rio San Juan Mountains; date not given]

[Text] Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] guerrillas told this newscast that the EPS is not respecting the cease-fire, because EPS troops have constantly been attacking the Jorge Salazar Regional Command. Interviewed in the Rio San Juan Mountains by one of our reporters, the RN combatants said that they are willing to give up the war in exchange for democratization. Here is what one RN guerrilla said:

[Begin unidentifed RN guerrilla recording] We, the members of the Salvador Mendieta Task Force armed resistance, denounce to the world and to the Nicaraguan people the human right violations by the BLI [Battalions for Unconventional Warfare] in Las Praderas, Los Caceres. On 29 April 1989, an EPS patrol—the Juan Gregorio Colindres BLI—killed six people in Las Praderas, Los Caceres. The names of the persons are Andres Mena, [words indisctinct] Bernardo Aviles, Antonio Robleto, Luis Robleto, and Carlos Gonzalez. This took place at 2300 at night. They also killed a 2-month-old infant. The RN repudiates the Sandinists for killing humble peasants. [end recording]

Daniel Ortega Meets Italian Leaders in Rome

PM1005102489 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 5 May 89 p 16

[Alessandro Oppes report: "Ortega Issues SOS to EEC"]

[Text] Rome—[Passage omitted] At the Chigi Palace yesterday morning, Ortega held a conversation for over an hour with Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita, whom he reminded of the facts about the dramatic economic crisis being experienced by his Central American country while also boasting of the steps forward made by Nicaragua on the road to democratization: presidential and general elections brought forward to February next year, the approval of a new electoral law, the law guaranteeing press freedom, and the release of almost 2,000 Somozist guards.

It is with these credentials that the Nicaraguan president is asking our government (as he will do in other European capitals) for full political support, in the hope of convincing the United States of the sincerity of the Sandinists' swing to democracy. As for financial aid, Italy is already entirely "up-to-date" in the Managua government's eyes: Indeed our country is a long way in the lead among states contributing to Nicaragua, with $150 million in aid allocated in a 3-year plan approved early last year. On top of this, there is Italy's work to help Central American refugees.

Ortega's stress on the economic aspect is due to the fact that the Managua government has been forced to implement a very stringent austerity policy in recent months: The result for the present is a reduction in the monthly inflation rate from 126 percent in December 1988 to 12.5 percent in April, achieved through very major budget cuts entailing a block on production investments. All this, within the context of a continuing U.S. economic blockade.

For his part, De Mita gave assurances of our government's continued support to Nicaragua, but reminded Ortega that "economic development and the democratization process must be closely interconnected." "Italian aid," he added, "is intended as an encouragement to the pursuit of this objective."

Despite the Managua government's assurances, there are indeed still some doubts about the Sandinists' actual desire to lead the country along the democratic path. A clearer expression of skepticism has come once again from the Bush administration, which has recently leveled heavy charges at Managua over the new electoral law whereby members of the electoral commission must be designated by a majority in the present parliament (controlled by the Sandinists) and which does not allow Nicaraguans abroad to vote.

"Let the European Parliament appoint a standing committee of observers to send to Nicaragua." This was Daniel Ortega's reply to skeptics when he spoke yesterday afternoon in the Hall of the She-Wolf at Montecitorio during a meeting with the Italian joint parliamentary group attended by members of the Italian-Nicaraguan bilateral friendship section. "The European representatives can come to our country right away to monitor the democratization process. We want the European governments and parliaments to form their own opinion of what is happening in Nicaragua on the basis of direct observation and not through information received from the United States."

Managua's work on the road to pluralism and democracy will culminate with the elections next 25 February, but the weeks ahead will also be crucial to the peace process: Following the accords signed by the five Central American presidents in El Salvador 3 months ago for the demobilization of some 20,000 contra rebels in Honduras, a plan should be finalized within the next 10 days for the practical implementation of the agreement. There are difficulties, however, since the Tegucigalpa government wants Managua to withdraw its report to the International Court of Justice at The Hague over the contras' presence in Honduras.

Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti expressed the wish for a positive conclusion to the Central American peace negotiations in a conversation with Ortega at the Villa Madama. Andreotti reaffirmed Italy's desire to support this process, partly within the framework of the dialogue already initiated between the EEC countries and Central America. [passage omitted]

LA REPUBBLICA Interview

PM0905153889 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 5 May 89 p 11

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by Nuccio Ciconte in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpts] Rome—[Passage omitted] [Ciconte] Your European tour is not yet over; you still have some important appointments, including those in London and Bonn. Is it true that you are counting a great deal on Mrs Thatcher?

[Ortega] Yes, indeed, the British prime minister could play an important role. Mrs Thatcher could be an excellent mediator between the Managua government and the U.S. Administration. But I am also pinning great hopes on my meeting with Chancellor Kohl. Be that as it may, I will take stock in a few days' time. Nevertheless, I can already say that in all the European countries I have visited I have perceived a real understanding of the effort Nicaragua is making to strengthen the democratic process in the country and of the pledges we have made with a view to the February 1990 elections.

[Ciconte] It is precisely over the elections that part of the opposition and the Bush administration itself are still skeptical. They maintain that your pledges to guarantee a free election are in danger of remaining unfulfilled.

[Ortega] There is an attempt to make people believe this. There is a propaganda campaign designed to undermine the legitimacy of the democratic process that we are conducting and the elections themselves which—I repeat—will be held in absolute freedom. Do they not believe what we say? Are we unable to honor our pledges? This is easy to verify. I put a specific proposal to the European Community: The Strasbourg parliament can send its own observers to Nicaragua right now, without awaiting the elections. Europe can thus form its own opinion on the basis of the report which these observers can then send to the European Parliament.

[Ciconte] The Nicaraguan opposition is split into a myriad of small parties. Some have already announced that they will take part in the elections, while others are still talking about it and remain undecided.

[Ortega] Seven of these parties came forward in November 1984. Now I am sure that many more will present themselves. I do not know whether they all will. Be that as it may, I hope that the opposition as a whole will succeed in adopting a politically mature stance, as demanded by the country's situation. I hope that the most extreme stances will be abandoned.

[Ciconte] At the recent El Salvador summit, all five Central American presidents signed a document envisioning the disbandment of the contras. A deadline was even set: 90 days. We are now approaching that deadline, but the rebels' military camps are still standing in Honduras. There is no talk of a return to Managua for the present. The Bush administration has allocated further funds to these armed groups. Has that plan already failed?

[Ortega] At this very moment this is still being discussed by the five Central American countries. That is, expelling the contras from Honduras. The U.S. decision to allocate further economic aid clearly hampers the plan that we are drawing up following the pledges signed in San Salvador. But we cannot talk in terms of a failure. The most important thing is to move ahead. Not to stop. We have time until 15 May. It is important to see what we Central Americans can do. The plan can be signed,

which means not only expelling the contras from Honduras but also providing them with the opportunity to return to their own country—Nicaragua—and to participate fully in its social, political, and economic life. The Managua government is ready to receive them, to facilitate their rehabilitation. [passage omitted]

[Ciconte] International detente and the new climate established in U.S.-Soviet relations do not seem—at least at present—to have produced any positive results in the Central American crisis. How long can this last?

[Ortega] The fact is that Reagan's legacy is a very heavy burden for the United States. It is not easy now for the present government to make a complete break with the policy pursued by the previous administration. Bush was a member of the previous government: He was U.S. vice president. Be that as it may, I do not believe that he wants to repeat the errors of the past.

[Ciconte] The Sandinist Front says it wants to build socialism in Nicaragua. What kind of society do you want to build once the war is over?

[Ortega] When we talk about socialism, our reference point is Nicaragua's actual situation. We do not believe in models; we are antidogmatic. Revolution is achieved on the basis of specific conditions. What does this mean? Basically, transforming society.

[Ciconte] Is the socialism you have in mind similar to Havana's, or are you inspired by other experiences?

[Ortega] No, our socialism cannot be like Cuba's or as it might be in a developed European country. I repeat: It must be a socialism adapted to Nicaraguan conditions. We look to the countries in favor of self-determination and independence. We have examples of countries that have achieved a high level of development while pursuing a neutral policy and that have therefore had no major economic problems. If we consider the Nordic countries, for instance, there is the example of Sweden—a country that belongs to no military alliances and that has managed to develop an enviable social and economic system. Sweden's is a model that the Nicaraguans do look at with interest because it would be rather more in tune with that which we in Nicaragua are trying to apply to our own situation.

[Ciconte] Socialism within freedom, then. Are the options for democracy and pluralism irreversible for the Sandinist Front?

[Ortega] This is all part of the revolutionary transformation of Nicaragua, where the element of defense and self-determination, independence and national sovereignty is the priority now. But our aim is to achieve an economic and social transformation of the country. For 10 years we have been trying to build Nicaraguan socialism. And although throughout these years we have had to cope with the U.S. aggression, we have remained loyal to our pledges: We have maintained a mixed economy and economic pluralism. We are building our own socialism, even though, as I said, we do give consideration to other experiences. The serious economic crisis that we have experienced and are still experiencing does not entail the abandonment of this blueprint. At present our main endeavor is to produce wealth and then to distribute it. This is the aim of our revolution.

Panama

Further Reportage on Election Events, Reactions

U.S. Official Beats Photographer

PA1005212489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 May 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] A U.S. Southern Command official savagely beat a Panamanian photographer, who found out about the espionage activities and the instructions given by alleged U.S. diplomats to Christian Democratic Party members last night at the Marriott Hotel. The officer then shouted obscenities at the photographer.

An individual named Price—who says he is a gringo embassy political adviser—and other alleged U.S. diplomats went to the hotel lobby to issue orders to U.S. reporters.

Price was accompanied by a high-ranking officer of the U.S. Southern Command, who was carrying a briefcase with documents, including maps of Panama City and the location of voting tables.

When he arrived at the hotel lobby, the political adviser appeared to be moving cautiously, but he later become more confident with the U.S. reporters and gave them some "background" [preceding word given in English], that is, reference materials, and later he provided more details and instructions on disinformation.

When he saw the Panamanian photographer, the Southern Command officer became angry, and, without being provoked, Price violently beat the photographer on his sides and shouted obscenities.

The Southern Command officer called the photographer a "stool pigeon," a name that suits him better than our Panamanian colleague.

Latest 'Unofficial Results'

PA1005224589 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1916 GMT 8 May 89

[All figures as heard]

[Text] According to the Radio Impacto computer center tabulating the results of the 7 May Panamanian elections, these are the latest unofficial results, both by party and by province: Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC], Christian Democratic Party [PDC], National

Republican Liberal Movement [MOLIRENA], Authentic Liberal Party [PLA], National Liberation Coalition [COLINA], Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], Labor Party [PALA], Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA]

Bocas del Toro Province: 186 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	7,311
MOLIRENA	3,500
PLA	1,954
Total	12,765
COLINA PRD	3,666
PALA	644
Others	1,437
Total	5,747
Blank or null votes	4,639
PPA	67
Total of votes	22,569

Cocle Province: 35 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	1,967
MOLIRENA	1,326
PLA	735
Total	4,028
COLINA PRD	1,451
PALA	641
Others	166
Total	2,258
PPA	29
Blank votes	658
Total votes	6,315

Colon Province: 166 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	18,383
MOLIRENA	5,330
PLA	2,445
Total	26,158
COLINA PRD	5,027
PALA	746
Others	980
Total	6,750
PPA	156
Blank votes	0
Total	33,067

Chiriqui Province: 143 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	15,053
MOLIRENA	6,239
PPA	2,979
Total	24,271
COLINA PRD	609
PALA	1,897
Others	687
Total	7,193
PPA	76
Blank	0
Total	31,540

Darien Province: There is no information on this province

Herrera Province: 5 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	4,090
MOLIRENA	1,624
PLA	5,424
Total	11,138
COLINA PRD	3,968
PALA	422
Others	461
Total	5,281
PPA	13
Blank votes	2,386
Total	16,412

Los Santos Province: 154 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	2,200
MOLIRENA	7,788
PLA	2,017
Total	20,005
COLINA PRD	5,926
PALA	3,868
Others	1,464
Total	11,268
PPA	44
Blank	2,050
Total	31,317

Panama Province: 1,344 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	124,354
MOLIRENA	69,720
PLA	32,533
Total	226,610
COLINA PRD	47,635
PALA	12,508
Others	11,900
Total	62,143
PPA	1,351
Blank or null votes	24,356
Total	300,101

Veraguas Province: 125 voting tables tallied:

ADOC	9,391
MOLIRENA	6,305
PLA	1,978
Total	14,664
COLINA PRD	6,354
PALA	1,242
Others	955
Total	8,551
PPA	108
Blank	2,620
Total	23,333

San Blas: No information has been provided

The grand totals are as follows: 2,228 voting tables tallied:

ADOC PDC	190,749	38.0 percent
MOLIRENA	98,832	19.7 percent
PLA	54,065	10.8 percent
Total Votes	343,646	68.5 percent
COLINA PRD	68,716	15.7 percent
PALA	22,378	4.5 percent
Others	18,060	3.6 percent
Total Votes	119,154	23.8 percent

PPA	1,854	0.4 percent
Null or blank votes	36,989	7.4 percent
Grand Total	500,653	

A total of 2,228 voting tables—52.4 percent—have been counted. There are still 2,027 left to be counted—47.6 percent. So far, 500,643 votes have been counted—39.2 percent of the voters.

As is evident, Radio Impacto's computer center predicts Endara is the new president.

PDC Mob Destroys Buildings

PA1005231989 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 May 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mariela Munoz Aragon]

[Text] A PDC mob decided to burn the local community board and attack Nuevo Arraijan Corregimiento residents with sticks, bottles, and stones when they realized that their party had lost the elections for corregimiento representative. The PDC mob caused considerable damage, completely destroying the MIDA [Agricultural Development Ministry] offices, the public library, the post office, and a garbage truck in Nuevo Arraijan.

Nuevo Arraijan residents and Honorable Corregimiento Representative Victoria de Robolt—who witnessed the crimes committed by the PDC followers led by Israel Ceballos, PDC candidate for the post of corregimiento representative in Nuevo Arraijan—said that at 2100, the PDC mob, armed with sticks, stones, and gasoline, went to the local commmunity board and the town's police station and destroyed them. A few hours after obtaining this information, these were still burning as a result of the terrible fire.

It is important to note that the opposition's followers also caused considerable damage to a school in Nuevo Arraijan, where they destroyed chairs, windows, and other objects.

Mrs Robolt stressed that the retirement checks for the Panama Canal retirees at the post office were destroyed by the fire and that pending files on criminal cases and files on pending alimony cases at the town's police station were destroyed.

The Nuevo Arraijan authorities and residents said that Democratic Revolutionary Party candidate Robolt won the elections for corregiminento representative in Nuevo Arraijan and that her PDC opponent was shown to be losing as the votes were counted. The PDC followers then decided to take arbitrary and deplorable measures that are unusual behavior for a good politician.

Corregimiento Representative Robolt said: "PDC members threatened my life, but I do not care. I won, and they will have to kill me to take me out of here." Robolt added that the mob headed by children—a method those gentlemen use to protect themselves—shouted that their actions this time had only been a warning, and that actions will worsen in coming days.

Ford Reportedly Orders Shooting

PA1005143289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 May 89 p 1

[Text] According to reports received by LA REPUBLICA, Guillermo Ford's trigger-happy men who shot Telemetro Television cameraman Fernando Arauz did so by mistake, believing Arauz to be a Televisora Nacional cameraman.

According to reports we have gathered, Billy "hoarse rooster" Ford has instructed his gunamen to fire at any reporter, cameraman, or photographer working for the media supporting the national government.

A Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement member has expressed his concern over the attitude assumed by Ford, who in view of his presidential ticket's defeat, has resorted to the use of violence—in this case, firearms.

PPA Withdraws From Vote Counting

PA1005140589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 May 89 p 8

[Text] The National Directorate of the PPA has instructed its delegates to the National Vote-Counting Board to temporarily withdraw because of the irregularities occurring in the counting of votes from the 7 May presidential elections.

ADOC-Reported Election Results

PA1005155789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 May 89 pp A-1, A-7

[Report by Juan Carlos Duque M.]

[Text] "Our triumph is receiving more recognition and acceptance as time goes by. You have seen the people's reaction to the elections; we are seen as the real winners."

With those words, Guillermo Endara Galimany, presidential candidate for the ADOC, which claims it won the 7 May presidential elections, began a news conference.

Endara, who was accompanied by vice presidential candidates Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, summarized the election and postelection events, protested irregularities, and announced ADOC will promote meetings with the Church and diplomatic corps to obtain recognition of its triumph.

"You are aware of the conclusions announced by the Church, which conducted a separate vote counting," Endara said, adding that the information gathered by the Church is based on a scientific poll.

ADOC announced yesterday that according to its tabulations corresponding to 1,524 voting tables, it had 236,097 votes compared to 79,260 for the National Liberation Coalition.

ADOC added that this figure represents 68.3 percent of the votes, with 2,731 voting tables pending.

According to them, [Authentic Panamenist Party presidential candidate Hildebrando] Nicosia had 1,242 votes, or 0.4 percent.

Endara said that ADOC has been in contact with Latin American presidents and that there is recognition of the people's victory through ADOC.

Endara Galimany protested actions against Arnulfo Escalona, a legislator candidate for the Authentic Liberal Party in Chitre, who he said was not allowed to leave his home and is incommunicado.

Endara said the "Panamanian people will ensure their will is respected and defended."

"I am convinced the people are ready for a civic struggle."

Asked what actions ADOC would take if its triumph is not recognized by the authorities, Guillermo Endara remembered his master, Arnulfo Arias Madrid.

"As my master said, it would be dumb to say in advance what one is going to do."

He insisted that the options are within a civic struggle, which includes various actions. In that regard, he applauded the march that ADOC held on 8 May.

Meanwhile, Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC's first vice presidential candidate, said the attempts to commit a fraud through irregularities had failed and that attention is now focused on the circuit vote-counting boards and the National Vote-Counting Board.

He said the situation is tense in Chitre, Colon, San Carlos, Chame, Guarare, La Chorrera, and other voting sectors in the Republic.

Arias Calderon condemned the fact that the media is not allowed to be present in the area where the National Vote-Counting Board has been installed and condemned the prohibition of reports, vote explanations, and other legal details.

Arias Calderon said the attempts of fraud will fail, because it would result in a national and international scandal.

During the news conference, the ADOC candidates announced their intention to meet with the apostolic nuncio to arrange a meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited in Panama.

Guillermo Ford announced that the Peruvian ambassador to Panama had formally delivered a note from the Peruvian president expressing his solidarity with the Panamanian elections. He added that Peru will appeal to the Group of Eight to defend the Panamanian people's free will.

The ADOC candidates met with the diplomatic corps, with the apostolic nuncio, and with Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath. At the conclusion of the meeting, which was held in Msgr McGrath's residence, there was confusion caused by the presence of Centurion troops [antiriot police] in patrol cars. Guillermo Ford told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that the Centurion troops fired some shots into the air because of the presence of some "youths" supporting the candidates. Although the shots caused some tension in the area, the three candidates left the place after meeting with Msgr McGrath and boarded their automobiles. There were no major incidents.

MOLIRENA Accused of Shooting

PA1005172989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Report by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] Individuals from the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, especially those from the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [MOLIRENA] led by Lenin Sucre, fired at dozens of people who had gathered outside a voting center in Arraijan.

This was proven following a raid conducted at Mr Napoleon Franco's home yesterday morning.

Franco explained that even though he is a member of the PRD, he opposes the candidacy of Rigoberto Paredes [PRD candidate for legislator] and consequently supported MOLIRENA candidate Lenin Sucre. "I allowed my house to be used by Sucre's supporters, which is my right as a citizen," said Franco, former Panamanian consul in Kobe, Japan.

Just as votes were being counted, bursts of machinegun fire, of 15 to 20 shots each, were heard on the night of 8 May at the home of Napoleon Franco, located on a high point in Arraijan from where the entire town can be seen. "The bullets were raining down on us," said an ice cream vendor.

While on the way to Mr Franco's house on the morning of 9 May, authorities from the Attorney General's Office headed by Attorney General Carlos Villalaz himself were also shot at, thereby forcing the authorities to respond.

In a Lenin Sucre's Mercedes Benz, license plate 8-54700, authorities found several vote tally sheets needed for the vote count.

Several bullets of various calibers were also found. Traces of someone's blood, who was shooting and injured himself, were found in the backyard of Mr Napoleon Franco's home.

Lenin Sucre's car was found in the garage of Franco's home along with Franco's Mercedes Benz.

Also from the home of Mr Franco and from another house located next to the Martinez Chung family's house, where boxes of ammunition were found and in which shooting took place and Molotov cocktails were thrown. [sentence as published]

CID-Gallup Manager on Elections

FL1005170589 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 May 89

[Interview with CID-Gallup General Manager Carlos Denton by Adolfo Hernandez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hernandez] Good evening dear viewers, good evening Mr Denton. Welcome to Honduras. I hope you have recovered from your unpleasant experience.

Mr Carlos Denton is general manager of CID-Gallup, the well-known company that supplies us with the studies that we have been airing for the past 5 years. Mr Denton was an observer at the elections in Panama, (?where) there was a problem that created a Latin American scandal—a world scandal. Mr Denton, it seems that everyone is waiting to see what happens in Panama because of its strategic position and because of its confrontation with a power like the United States.

We wish to remind our viewers, and inform those who do not know, that there were some international correspondents who reported that CID-Gallup had conducted a poll and allegedly reported that Carlos Duque, the progovernment presidential candidate, had won the elections. This needs some clarification. Also, some jokes were made about CID-Gallup, a well-known business.

What was your experience during those elections? I wish to remind you that Mr Denton was an observer during the elections.

[Denton] Adolfo, I went to Panama as an observer invited by the Panamanian Human Rights Commission. That was what I did on election day. I can tell you many stories about the anomalies I, and other Costa Rican observers, saw at the schools, at the voting centers. One definite thing that I was able to observe, that we were all able to observe, is that the opposition was winning three or four to one. I personally observed the counting of some votes and this was clear.

[Hernandez] That contradicts the information released and attributed to CID-Gallup.

[Denton] Yes it does. All that I can tell you about a poll carried out by quote Gallup-Spain unquote is that two schools I visited...

[Hernandez, interrupting] Voting centers?

[Denton] No, two schools. Voting tables were set up at schools.

[Hernandez] Oh, schools where voting tables had been set up.

[Denton] At two schools I found some people, a young lady to be more specific, in a Gallup-Spain booth. I asked her who she worked for. She told me that she was an Electoral Tribunal [TEP] official.

[Hernandez] You thought you were speaking to a colleague.

[Denton] I had no idea. So I asked who she worked for and she told me she was a TEP official. The TEP is not an independent body like what we have here or in Costa Rica. So I asked her why she was in a booth. She told me that her boss had told her to call in once in a while and report on what was happening at this school and at the voting tables located here. So I said, come on, what about the booth? I do not know, she told me.

[Hernandez] All they said was set it up and do this job.

[Denton] That is right.

[Hernandez] Well, at least she answered truthfully.

[Denton] She answered truthfully.

[Hernandez] She could have lied.

[Denton] That is right. I saw the same thing at another school. The young lady at the other school told me that she had no time to interview voters, so she just called her boss once in a while and gave him an estimate.

[Hernandez] Then they were actually trying to find out who the people were voting for. They would approach the people saying: We work for Gallup, who did you vote for.

[Denton] Yes. The only explanation we have is that we conducted a poll in Panama between 7 and 17 April. That was done for UNIVISION. The results of that survey showed that the opposition had 62 percent of the vote and the government party had 28 percent. Those results were released; our people, our polltakers were arrested; we had very bad experiences. For some unknown reason, they decided to use the poll to carry out their fraud, which is already a known fact for the world.

[Hernandez] Not speaking as CID-Gallup general manager but as an observer invited by the Human Rights Commission, what is your opinion?

[Denton] Everything possible was done to carry out fraud. The voting tables I was to observe should have opened at 0700. They opened after 1100 and closed promptly at 1700. The Panamanian people stood under the hot sun for 4 and 5 hours to be able to cast their votes. They said they did not care if they had to wait to vote because they said they wanted a change; that they could not take this for another day.

We who were there, approximately 70 observers, met after the voting and reached the conclusion that despite the complications and pressures the opposition won, it was an overwhelming victory. There was no way that this could be hidden.

ADOC Candidates With Diplomats

PA1005140089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0448 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 9 May (REUTER)—The Panamanian opposition candidates met today with Latin American and European ambassadors to inform them about the controversial elections held on 7 May, of which the opposition candidates proclaimed themselves winners.

Guillermo Endara, presidential candidate for Panama's ADOC, told journalists: "We want to inform ambassadors exactly what is happening here and about the monstruous fraud being carried out."

The meeting with the diplomatic corps took place at the Apostolic Nunciature; the Vatican's representative, Nuncio Juan Sebastian Laboa, attended the meeting. The U.S. ambassador was not observed to have attended the meeting.

Endara added: "We asked the various ambassadors to tell their governments about the Panamanian people's will to live in peace and freedom."

Endara, however, stressed that they did not ask the diplomats for an express recognition of the ADOC-proclaimed election triumph. A few hours before the meeting, Endara and his running mates had declared themselves as the Panamanian Government-elect. [Passage omitted]

According to Nunciature sources, the diplomats who attended the meeting include the ambassadors from Spain, the United Kingdom, France, the FRG, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia.

Observers described the meeting between the ambassadors and the ADOC candidates as additional pressure on the already embattled government loyal to the Panamanian military men to force it to respect the will of the people. [passage omitted]

Military, Armed Civilians

PA1005131789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0728 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (EFE)—Isolated shots were heard in several neighborhoods of the capital shortly after midnight, after official election results were announced on television.

The source of the shooting is still unknown at this hour, 0200 (0700 GMT).

Numerous areas in the capital have military checkpoints, and other areas have the noticeable presence of armed civilians.

Last night, the progovernment television summoned the so-called "Dignity Battalions" to declare a "red alert."

The "Dignity Battalions" are composed of approximately 1,000 civilians armed by the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) with the intention of countering an eventual U.S. military intervention.

Groups of armed civilians yesterday participated in numerous incidents in the city's downtown area, when they dispersed opposition groups protesting an alleged election fraud.

Civic Crusade on 'Honor Guard'

PA1005135989 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1250 GMT 10 May 89

[Statement by Tomas Herrera, member of the Civic Crusade—live]

[Text] The National Civic Crusade reaffirms its recognition of the victory of Guillermo Endara Galimany, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford as president and vice presidents, respectively. This has been recognized by the Panamanian Catholic Church, Presidents Alan Garcia of Peru and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, 279 international observers from 21 countries, and civic and professional organizations of the Republic of Panama.

For this reason, and in protest of the hoax the regime is trying to carry out, we invite the Panamanian people to come out to the sidewalks of Via Espana, from the intersection of that street with Via Cincuentenario to Santa Ana Park, at 1200 on Wednesday, 10 May, to form an honor guard for the candidates and proclaim them the winners by the people's presence.

Cochez on Legislative Results

PA1005193689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1416 GMT 10 May 89

[Report by Christian Democratic Party Vice President Guillermo Cochez in Panama—live or recorded]

[Text] From Panama, this is Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the PDC. I am currently a legislator, and I was reelected on 7 May. I am here to report, from Panama City, a number of facts we discovered in a recording of a high-ranking member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

The government's plan does not encompass only proclaiming Carlos Duque president; it also involves stealing approximately 25 legislators' seats. According to our calculations, 48 or 49 seats would go to the opposition and 18 or 19 to the government. However, through the information discovered in the recording, we have learned that the government—that is, the military, particularly General Noriega, who wants to favor his friends—plans to completely change the configuration of the Legislative Assembly. For example, in Panama City, where the opposition, particularly the PDC, won an overwhelming victory, the government plans a large-scale robbery of legislative seats. In Circuit 8-8, where the opposition should have three legislators—I mean four, three from the PDC and one from the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement—and where the PRD won very few votes, the government now plans to give two seats to the PRD, in the persons of Mario Rognoni, and Hector Aleman, secretary general of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees. In other words, in an honest count, the government might win about half a quotient [number that determines how many seats go to the various parties]—and it has not yet reached that figure—but it is going to receive two seats, which will be taken from the PDC.

In Circuit 8-9, where I led the PDC ticket in winning over 40 percent of the votes, assuring the party of three seats—for myself, Milton Henriquez, and Gloria Moreno de Lopez, the PRD, which might earn a single seat in the circuit, now wants to claim two, one for Mauro Murillo, secretary general of the Union of Workers of the National Telecommunications Institute, and another for Elias Castillo, who was apparently the legitimate winner for the PRD in that circuit.

In Circuit 8-10, where the PDC and MOLIRENA tied for first place, the government wants to give two seats to the PRD.

In Circuit 8-1, Arraijan, where PDC candidate Jose Rafael Hill clearly won, the government is seeking to impose Rigoberto Paredes again.

In Circuit 8-2, PDC candidate Domi Luis Montenegro was proclaimed the winner, but the next day, his victory was revoked and Dr Cynthia de Sanjur of the PRD was proclaimed winner in his place.

In Circuit 8-4, where MOLIRENA candidate Roberto Garibaldo won, there is an attempt to deny his victory and, as in all the places I have mentioned, the FDP have taken control of the places where the votes were being counted to totally alter the tally sheets. All of this has been reported to the Electoral Prosecutor's Office and the Electoral Tribunal. This demonstrates what we have always said: The Electoral Tribunal and the Electoral Prosecutor's Office are totally at the service of the regime's interests.

For example, we learned yesterday that tally sheets were being altered at the Electoral Tribunal's child care center, located behind the rooms where the magistrates meet, under the instructions of an FDP captain.

Another example: We learned that in Circuit 8-5, in Chorrera, whe the PDC won both seats, the government insists on giving one seat to PRD candidate Hugo Torrijos.

The same thing is occurring in Santiago, Veraguas, where PDC candidates Erasmo Mendez and Carlos Carrizo won the two seats. An attempt is being made to give one seat to Dr Moises Melamed of the PRD, Gen Noriega's close friend, who did not win.

The same thing is true in David: Of three seats available, the PDC won two and MOLIRENA one. Now the government wants to impose Camilo Gozaine, one of Gen Noriega's partners, who did not win.

These things are also happening in other circuits, such as Circuit 8-7, where there is an attempt to impose Alberto Aleman Boyd, former president of the Assembly, and Alba Iris Castro, one of the Dignity Battalions leaders. This is completely irregular, because the PRD might barely manage to win a seat for Aleman Boyd in Circuit 8-7.

This demonstrates to the world the very irregular manner in which the vote-count is being handled, not only at the presidential level, but also at the level of legislators and corregimiento representatives. One interesting event occurred in Circuito 6-1, Chitre Province, where Dr Arnulfo Escalona Rios, president of the Authentic Liberal Party, won by an ample margin and where the losing candidate, retired FDP Colonel Manuel Arauz, congratulated the winner. When Col Arauz was told he had won instead of Escalona, he refused to accept the seat, because he knew he had lost. Apparently, both he and Escalona are now under house arrest.

We have heard the major who commands Herrera Military Zone has recognized Dr Escalona's victory.

In this manner, we are informing you from Panama on another aspect of the fraud. However, we believe and sincerely trust that the international pressure being exerted by Peru, Venezuela, and all Central America will enable us in the end to win and prevail.

Committee Reports 89 Arrests

PA1005182089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1723 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (EFE)—The Human Rights Committee reported today that a total of 89 persons have been arrested over the last few days in Panama as a result of protests by the opposition over what it considers fraud in last Sunday's elections.

A spokesman for the committee told EFE that the arrested persons have been charged with undermining state security.

The spokesman added that, according to claims by the arrested people's relatives, a list of 89 persons has been prepared. The spokesman also said that there have been arrests of people whose names have not been confirmed.

Meanwhile, Martin Alberto Paz, FDP spokesman for the foreign press, was asked by EFE about these arrests, but he said he had no such information.

The Human Rights Committee charged that in Veracruz, near the United States' Howard Air Force Base, some 50 people were arrested yesterday as a result of clashes between police and protesters, who were demonstrating against FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Veracruz residents told EFE that riot police dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas.

According to the Human Rights Committee, the authorities have admitted they have some of the 89 persons on the list, but the whereabouts of others are unknown. There is a third group of people who have made bail but have not been released.

A spokesman for the ADOC said that the whereabouts of 28 members of the opposition—including 6 candidates for legislator—are unknown, and it is not certain if they are under arrest or in hiding.

The police have surrounded the home of Arnulfo Escalona—the leader of the opposition Authentic Liberal Party—in Chitre, in the center of the country. Escalona is inside his home, incommunicado, as his telephones have been cut, the ADOC spokesman added.

Opposition sources also claimed the homes of ADOC leaders in La Chorrera, near Panama City, have been raided.

FDP Shoots During March

PA1005182789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1743 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] We will now hear a Panamanian journalist report on the march called by the ADOC to enable the people to express their support and proclaim the ADOC candidates as the real winners in the Panamanian elections:

[Begin relay of unidentified reporter] It is now 1237 here [1737 GMT]. ADOC candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford are walking on Via Espana with the Panamanian flag. They are accompanied by many photographers, journalists, and the public. The public is lining up to form a human chain up to Santa Ana Plaza, where the Panamanian people have traditionally held rallies.

We want to reiterate that the FDP are in the streets. They have yet to take any action, but the public is gathering.

There are rumors that sometime this afternoon, the government is going to declare Carlos Duque, the presidential candidate of the COLINA, as the winner despite the clear fact of fraud.

On behalf of the Panamanian people, we want to reiterate our gratitude to Radio Impacto. For example, no local media in Panama reported the statements by Carter, U.S. senators, and election observers. All of the media are censored. The few commentators support the government; the opposition commentators are silent. We can only hear news through channels 8 and 10 of the U.S. Armed Forces and through Radio Impacto, which have also been jammed. [passage omitted] [end relay]

That was our Panamanian colleague reporting on the ADOC march. We have also been informed that Noriega's FDP have begun shooting at the people participating in the march. This is on Argentina Avenue, near the Planning Ministry on Via Espana.

[Paris AFP at 1749 GMT on 10 May reports: "Thousands of Panamanians shaking white handkerchiefs and honking their horns rushed onto Panama City streets at noon today to proclaim ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara as the new Panamanian president." The report continues: "Water cannons, called pitufos, which are used in Panama to break up demonstrations, began to spew out water against the demonstrators, who withdrew to nearby buildings, only to return and join the demonstration again."]

Citizens Seek Political Asylum

PA1005190289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1821 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—The first Panamanian citizens to request political asylum arrived in Costa Rica early this morning.

Basilia Nunez de Ortiz, 51; Noriel Ortiz Nunez, 19; Isaac Ortiz Mendoza, 14 months; and Miguel Enoc Ortiz Mendoza, 10, appeared before Costa Rican immigration authorities at the border post of Paso de Canoa and requested political asylum.

The newly arrived people claimed to be persecuted by Panamanian authorities "simply for belonging to the opposition."

Unconfirmed reports circulating in San Jose claim there are two U.S. journalists coming from Panamanian territory at the same border post, but neither the government nor the U.S. Embassy have confirmed the information.

Call for U.S. Intervention

PA1005201989 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1859 GMT 10 May 89

[Telephone report from unidentified man in Panama City—live]

[Text] We have just endured the harshest repression one has ever seen against people who were just waving handkerchiefs or were in their houses protesting with pots and pans, solely and exclusively for their freedom and democracy.

In the area of La Loma, in San Fernando, behind the San Fernando Clinic in Panama City, a truck has just arrived with Noriega regime goons, shooting at and throwing grenades at the homes of innocent people. Listen, sir, the opposition in this country, who are the majority, have peacefully fought this government, not just now, but for the past 20 years. I believe most Panamanians are calling for U.S. intervention, because with Noriega's sophisticated weapons, we could never oust him from power with handkerchiefs and pots and pans.

It is time for that man to learn what true force really is and for him to leave power by force. The United States, which placed him there and armed him, now knows that he is not their pawn and should remove him from power. This has been incredible. Children and innocent people, mothers, people who were not doing anything, are now suffering the Noriega regime's repression. Their homes have been bombarded, and bullets have been fired indiscriminately toward the apartments. I believe most Panamanians really want the United States to act with force and remove this madman from power, not just for Panama's democracy and freedom, but for Latin American democracy.

The repression today in Panama has been truly frightful, solely and exclusively because an honor guard was convoked for the legitimate president, Mr Guillermo Endara.

We truly thank Radio Impacto for its coverage of the elections and the repression in Panama, because you have removed the muzzle that has existed, not just for the past 2 years and during the elections, but for 20 years in the area of communications here in Panama.

Therefore, I believe we Panamanians are going to continue fighting, but Panamanians are not violent. Panamanians do not have weapons to defend themselves against the Noriega regime, and while we are seeking weapons, we will be subdued and wiped out. So I believe the United States should take vigorous action. We identify today, as always, with the gringos. We are not cowards, but we have no weapons with which to fight this wretched madman.

Therefore, we are telling Panamanians to have faith and let all Panamanians begin to speak out against Noriega and call for U.S. intervention in this situation. This is the breaking point, sirs.

We thank Radio Impacto. We will never be able to repay you for removing the muzzle from freedom of expression.

Arias Calderon on Annulment

PA1005200289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1914 GMT 10 May 89

[Report by Arturo Gudino, special AFP correspondent in Panama]

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (AFP)—A high-ranking opposition source said in Panama City today that in the last few hours General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime may have considered the possiblity of annulling the elections held in Panama on 7 May in view of the evidence of fraud presented by the opposition, the Catholic Church, and some 300 international observers.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice presidential candidate for Panama's ADOC, told AFP that "a very prestigious lawyer linked to the regime told us on the morning of 9 May that he had seen a draft decree through which the regime would annul the 7 May elections."

Although the opposition claims to have won the 7 May elections by a wide margin, the partial figures provided by the National Vote-Counting Board give a two-to-one advantage to Carlos Duque, the government candidate for the COLINA over ADOC's presidential candidate, Guillermo Endara.

Arias Calderon said that "apparently (to annul the elections) is one of the options the regime has considered," although he warned that Gen Noriega "has also considered the possibility of continuing the vote count to proclaim Duque the winner and increase the repression against the people."

Arias Calderon added that if Gen Noriega decides to invalidate the elections, "it would not solve anything, because an annulment of the elections does not change the results or the world's perception of Panama. An annulment would cause more trouble and be the climax of the absurd."

Arias Calderon said the opposition candidates are willing to make a concerted effort between civilians and military but that such an effort will come after the recognition of the opposition's election victory and negotiations for the withdrawal of Gen Noriega from power.

According to international observers, the Catholic Church, and the opposition, ADOC won Sunday's elections with an advantage of three to one over COLINA.

The ADOC leader reiterated the charges about "the many cases of vote tally sheet thefts. The fraud has been huge, and what the vote-counting board is doing now is fabricating vote tally sheets."

"This has been reported by the observers and former President James Carter. This is very important, because in the United States he is the figure most in favor of Panama," he said, recalling the signing of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaty, which establishes the canal's complete return to Panama and the withdrawal of approximately 10,000 U.S. troops.

Meanwhile, the Panamanian progovernment press today accused the opposition of being responsible for the "theft of vote tally sheets" in various parts of the country.

In its editorial, the progovernment CRITICA said that "both former Presidents Carter and Ford and the group of U.S. observers, who arrived without invitation... came with a preconceived plan to discredit the elections."

ADOC Candidates Wounded

PA1005194689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1926 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] This is a report we are receiving right now from Panama. It has been reported that Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford have been wounded by birdshot by the Manuel Antonio Noriega dictatorship's forces. The Dobermans, the paramilitaries, and the entire force of the dictatorship are out in the streets attacking the civilians who are participating in a march called by the ADOC. Our correspondent also reported that many people have been wounded, and many more have been arrested.

Attention: Democratic peoples of the world: The Panamanians are requesting help and solidarity. The three ADOC presidential and vice presidential candidates have been wounded by the Manuel Antonio Noriega forces.

3 Demonstrators Killed

PA1005195789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1937 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (AFP)—At least three opposition demonstrators were killed today in Panama City when antiriot policemen and paramilitary groups violently dispersed a demonstration led by the top leaders of Panama's ADOC.

According to journalists and witnesses present in the area, the bloodstained bodies were lying on the ground near Santa Ana Plaza.

Endara, Ford Wounded

PA1005201589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1958 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Mar (EFE)—Guillermo Endara, presidential opposition candidate in the 7 May Panamanian elections, was wounded today by members of the so-called Dignity Battalions.

The many wounded also include vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford, who was walking with Endara at the head of a march against the election fraud.

The bodies of two people who have been covered with boxes by the military men can be seen in the middle of the street in the center of Panama, where the demonstration took place.

At Endara's house, a person who identified herself as his secretary said Endara is in fact wounded and has been taken to a hospital.

A witness said that Ford's "shirt is completely bloodstained" after he was attacked by Dignity Battalion members carrying weapons and iron sticks.

He added that FDP members placed themselves between the opposition candidate and the paramilitary group, helping him to seek shelter.

More on ADOC Candidates Attack

PA1005203289 Paris AFP in Spanish 2007 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (AFP)—At least three people were killed today in the Panamanian capital when a demonstration of the ADOC was broken up. Guillermo Ford, ADOC second vice presidential candidate, was wounded in an attack with sticks and iron rods.

The bloody disturbances broke out at approximately 1400 (1900 GMT) when a large opposition demonstration, which was headed by ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and which had been surrounded by riot troops in the central Santa Ana Plaza, was attacked by the so-called Dignity Battalions (paramilitary men).

About 200 paramilitary men, armed with sticks and iron rods, broke through the military cordon and attacked the demonstrators and their leaders.

Badly wounded and with his shirt bloodied from rib wounds, Ford had to be evacuated from the area by the government troops, who prevented an even worse attack, according to witnesses.

Other witnesses said Ford was violently removed from his vehicle by the paramilitary men as he was trying to leave the area protected by his supporters.

Guillermo Endara and Ricardo Arias Calderon (first vice presidential candidate) were also beaten up by the so-called Dignity Battalion members, although the consequences of the attack are still unknown.

Endara and Arias were evacuated from Santa Ana Plaza by their escorts and followers in a vehicle that fled from the place surrounded by the attacks by antiriot policemen and paramilitary groups.

The ADOC's demonstration, headed by its three top leaders, which had departed 2 hours earlier from the southeast end of the city enroute to Santa Ana Plaza, near the FDP headquarters, was repressed several times by antiriot policemen who used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

Along their way on 50th Street and Via Espana, the opposition leaders were forced to change their route several times to reach Santa Ana Plaza.

Near the National Bank of Panama, military men pointed rifles directly at Endara, Arias, and Ford, warning them that under no circumstances would he let them pass.

The demonstration was completely surrounded for half an hour at Santa Ana Plaza; after the violent paramilitary attack, at least three bodies were left lying on the ground.

Ford Hospitalized; Endara Released

PA1005212189 Paris AFP in Spanish
2046 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 10 May (AFP)—Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, the three presidential and vice presidential candidates of the ADOC, were injured during bloody disturbances in Panama City today, opposition sources said.

According to the sources, Ford suffered the most serious injuries and was hospitalized at the Paitilla Clinic. Endara was injured in the head and received eight stitches, but he was treated and released from the hospital.

Endara, Arias Calderon, and Ford were beaten up by paramilitary forces when they were getting ready to hold a rally in Santa Ana Square in the old section of Panama City, a few blocks from the FDP Headquarters. [passage omitted]

Endara on Paramilitary Attack

PA1005215589 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2108 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (EFE)—Opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara blamed General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, for the attack by paramilitary troops on an opposition march, during which two persons were killed and Endara was injured.

After receiving seven stitches at a hospital, Endara left in a wheelchair, followed by two supporters, who showed their bloody shirts. He said that he will not let up in his struggle "against the military men and the battalions of indignity."

The opposition march, called to protest Sunday's fraudulent elections, was attacked by troops of the so-called "Dignity Battalions," trained and armed by the FDP, whom an officer allowed to attack the candidates, according to Endara.

The candidate, who sustained a deep, 7-centimeter wound to the head and strong blows to his side, lost unconsciousness for a short time. After being treated, he got into a vehicle to continue the demonstration. He was given an ovation by hundreds of supporters who had gathered outside the hospital and who shouted: "Endara for president."

During the attack by the paramilitary troops on the opposition march, during which shooting broke out, two unidentified persons were killed. Their bodies were left lying on the floor for a long time, covered with cardboard boxes that were placed over them by several military men, who did not let anyone get near. Guillermo Ford, opposition second vice presidential candidate, was also injured and his shirt was completely bloodstained.

Endara, Ford, and the first vice presidential candidate, Ricardo Arias Calderon, were attacked by militiamen, who were wearing "Dignity Battalion" sweatshirts and carried firearms and steel bars.

The presidential candidate explained that he was at Plaza Santa Ana talking with an FDP officer, who was asking them to "calm down" before continuing the march and reaching its final destination. He added that right after he finished talking with the officer, the latter allowed "a paramilitary group" to get through. Then the paramilitary group beat the politician on the head and on one side of his body with an iron bar. The candidate

complained: "It was treacherous the way they allowed the Dignity Battalions, which are nothing but armed paramilitary elements, to get through."

Endara said that the attackers broke his glasses and that he lost consciousness. He remembers that before fainting he saw that Arias Calderson had fallen next to him.

Endara urged the Panamanian people not to cease struggling "to put an end to cheap military elements and to the battalions of indignity."

ADOC Candidates Treated

PA1005220389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 2140 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Edwin Cabrera, an adviser to Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC first vice presidential candidate, reported that all three ADOC candidates are being treated at the Paitilla Hospital for wounds sustained during the brutal repression carried out by Panamanian soldiers.

ADOC Attacks COLINA Members

PA1005231689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2251 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] At midday today, opposition groups attacked COLINA members with firearms. The unarmed COLINA members were attacked by ADOC paramilitary groups, which forced the FDP to go into the streets to maintain order and to guarantee the vote count.

Filmed reports reflect the damage ADOC and its paramilitary groups have caused in Panama City's streets and avenues, leaving FDP members wounded. [passage omitted]

These violent demonstrations, promoted by the Panamanian opposition, are aimed at creating the conditions demanded by the United States to justify an armed invasion of Panama—as it did in the Dominican Republic in 1965—to abrogate the Torrijos-Carter canal treaties in order to allow U.S. troops to remain in Panamanian territory indefinitely.

Televisora Nacional has been informed that concurrent with these violent activities, a widespread plan calling for telephone calls throughout the country was carried out. Panamanians were asked to call the Southern Command to request a military invasion.

Four FDP Members Wounded

PA1005235089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2335 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] At midday today, opposition groups attacked COLINA members with firearms. The unarmed COLINA members were attacked by ADOC paramilitary groups, which forced the FDP to go into the streets to maintain order and to guarantee the vote count.

Filmed reports reflect the damage the ADOC and its paramilitary groups caused in Panama City's streets and avenues, leaving FDP members wounded: Sublieutenant Obstancio Villarreal, who sustained a gun wound to the thorax and is presently undergoing surgery. His condition is serious. Sublieutenant Demetrio Villarreal was shot in the abdomen and is also undergoing surgery. Also wounded were Corporal 1st Class Jorge E. Porras, who was shot in the leg, and policeman Marcos Domingues. All four soldiers are receiving treatment at the Santo Tomas hospital.

Foreign Journalists Asked To Leave

PA1005213289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2027 GMT 10 May 89

[Communique issued by the Government and Justice Ministry's Media Directorate in Panama City on 10 May]

[Text] In view of the disinformation against our country carried out by foreign correspondents, the Media Directorate has decided to ask them to leave our fatherland today. The following persons have been sending false information abroad:

American Charles Jaco from CNN; Javier Rojas from EXCELSIOR; Dominique Petit from AFP; Arturo Gudino from Costa Rica [media not identified]; Humberto Arce [media not identified]; Isabel O Ramirez from AFP; Jose Melendez Monge from EXCELSIOR; Lafitte Hernandez Rojas from Costa Rica [media not identified]; Ruben del Castillo from the Voice of America; Michael William Drudge from the Voice of America; and Joaquin Ibarz from Spain's VANGUARDIA.

These are the foreign correspondents who have been distorting the truth about the elections through their media. Therefore, the Media Directorate has decided to ask them to leave the country immediately.

Business Group on 'Irregularities'

PA1105000789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2303 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (DPA)—The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture today protested the "election-related incidents and the irregularities that have been carried out in an attempt to ignore the Panamanian people's desire for a peaceful change leading to a true democracy."

The country's most important business group issued a communique condemning "the violence that paramilitary groups have unleashed." The group urged the FDP "to respect the will of the people as expressed by their votes so that the country may have justice, peace, and calm."

Meanwhile, the Authentic Panamenist Party, whose presidential candidate is Hildebrando Nicosia, today ordered its representatives at the National Vote-Counting Board to temporarily withdraw from that organization "in light of certain irregularities in the vote count."

However, Ernesto Perez Valladares, COLINA campaign manager, has said that his political group maintains that its presidential candidate, Carlos Duque, defeated Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance candidate Guillermo Endara by 50,000 votes. The COLINA campaign manager said he expects Duque's election victory to be officially proclaimed this evening. Perez Valladares said his coalition's only fear is that once the United States secures the cooperation of some Latin American governments, the opposition may provoke confrontations with the FDP to justify a U.S. invasion.

A clandestine radio station today overrode the signal of Radio Onda Popular, which is owned by COLINA vice presidential candidate Ramon Sieiro, General Manuel Antonio Noriega's brother-in-law. The clandestine station reported unofficial figures according to which the opposition won the elections.

CIA Blamed for Incidents

PA1105014289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0016 GMT 11 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is no secret that the CIA, with the U.S. Government's approval, smuggled weapons into our country, financed seditious activities, and jammed television and radio stations, as it did today when we began our program. All these things were part of the U.S. Government's efforts to manipulate the elections.

All these manipulations and plans to try to subdue the Panamanian people are now at one of the most dangerous stages, which is one of the stages we always condemned and never wanted to reach. We have learned that two FDP officers, a corporal, and a soldier were wounded with guns that were put in the hands of the fatso sweetbread [ADOC Presidential Candidate Guillermo Endara], the vampire [ADOC First Vice Presidential Candidate] Arias Calderon, and the hoarse rooster [ADOC Second Vice Presidential Candidate] Billy Ford.

These actions are a sign that there is a plan to promote violence in our country by provoking confrontations among the people. On this occasion, two FDP officers were shot and wounded following the seditious demonstration called by the ADOC in despair because of the clear victory of COLINA candidate Carlos Duque Jaen.

We have also received reports from our many sources that Guillermo Endara, Guillermo Ford, and Ricardo Arias Calderon are at Building 344 at Quarry Heights [U.S. Southern Command Headquarters] from where they are directing the aggression against the Panamanian people. It is important to point this out. Remember that Building 344 at Quarry Heights is where these people are issuing instructions for disturbing public order. The question is: Why do the ADOC candidates not go before the people allegedly supporting them to defend the votes they did not get at the elections?

ADOC's Ford Under Arrest

PA1105024589 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0220 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Attention: The latest reports from Panama City indicate that Guillermo "Billy" Ford, ADOC second vice presidential candidate, is under arrest at Modelo Prison. Pay close attention: He is under arrest at Modelo Prison in Panama City. There are photographs showing that Ford was severely beaten, much more so than the other two candidates. It is known that his face and back were bleeding. It is not known exactly where he was wounded, because he was bleeding profusely from several parts of his body.

It is also known that Billy Ford's bodyguard, Alexis Guerra, was killed by several bullet wounds. Ford's other bodyguard, Gregorio Humberto Montenegro, is hovering between life and death as a result of the bullet wounds he sustained.

We also learned from Panama City that there are no civilians out on the streets. Only Manuel Antonio Noriega's FDP are out on the streets. We repeat: ADOC second vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford is under arrest at Modelo Prison of Panama City. There is fear for his life because he is seriously wounded.

U.S. Military Attaches Released

PA1105033089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0253 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 10 May (EFE)—Panamanian authorities today turned over to Allen Cornell, U.S. Embassy military attache, two U.S. Army majors, who were also attaches. They were arrested this afternoon, spokesmen for the National Department of Investigations (DENI) told EFE.

Majors Kevin O'Neill and Daniel McGuire, as they were identified by the embassy, were arrested today by Panamanian security police in an area of the capital where violent disturbances took place, Panamanian sources reported.

DENI spokesmen added that the U.S. officers' papers were in order and that they were turned over to Colonel Cornell 3 hours after their arrest. [passage omitted]

Elections To Be Canceled

PA1105035389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0343 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (EFE)—According to a ranking government source, the Panamanian Government will announce the cancellation of Sunday's elections tonight. The source said that the decision was made after the State Council held a lengthy meeting, in which Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the presidency; cabinet ministers; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the FDP; and most of the General Staff participated. The reasons for the cancellation were not disclosed by the source, but Solis Palma will—perhaps—explain them tonight.

Government Cancels Elections

PA1105044289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0356 GMT 11 May 89

[Statement by TEP President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez from the National Vote-counting Center at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Citizens, the TEP gathered at a meeting to reach an agreement and approved the following decree:

Decree No 58 of 10 May 1989 declares the annulment of the 7 May 1989 elections. The TEP, by means of its constitutional and legal authority, states that whereas:

The TEP summoned the Panamanian people to popular elections on 7 May 1989 to elect a president, vice presidents, legislators, corregimiento representatives, and councilmen.

The elections were organized amid the Republic of Panama's most acute fiscal and economic crisis as a means of offering the Panamanian people the opportunity to legally reelect members to high government office and to show the world Panama's resolve to maintain a democratic framework, despite the enormous economic sacrifices the election process entailed and despite the distractions we faced as a result of the aggressor's constant attacks.

Once the voting ended at 1700, events took place, the consequences of which remain and which have significantly altered the final election results throughout the country. The normal election process was affected by the obstructionist actions of many foreigners, who were summoned by local and foreign political forces without being invited by the TEP. The purpose of these foreigners was clearly to justify claims of election fraud made by U.S. authorities well in advance of the elections.

According to reports received by the TEP, the concise accounts of these events from coordinators, election inspectors, officials responsible for the general organization of the elections, and the vote-counting and reporting committees report the continual removal of ballots from election precincts and vote-buying by political parties. The reports make particular note of the lack of tally sheets and other documents.

It absolutely impossible to proclaim any of the candidates as winner. In accordance with Article 136 of the political Constitution and Articles 290 and 291 of the Electoral Code, the TEP is authorized to officially declare the annulment of the elections.

In view of each and every one of the above considerations, this tribunal must conclude—in light of the facts and circumstances noted—that the measure we herein adopt will contribute to the restoral of tranquillity to the country and will contribute to the protection of the lives and property of all inhabitants of the national territory.

Decrees: Article 1. The 7 May 1989 elections are completely annulled. The annulment covers all positions that were to be filled by these elections.

Article 2. It is ordered that all state, executive, legislative, and judiciary organizations be sent copies of the report referred to herein in order to promote the constitutional and legal measures intended to preserve the constitutional and legal order of the Republic.
To be communicated and publicized.
Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, TEP president
Luis Carlos Chen, TEP vice president
Aurelio Correa Estribi, TEP member
Carlos Bonilla Garcia, TEP secretary general

Endara Returns to Hospital

PA1105044989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0320 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (AFP)—ADOC Presidential Candidate Guillermo Endara was hospitalized today as a result of the blows he received during an opposition demonstration that was violently put down by government forces.

Rafael Melgar, the opposition leader's physician, said Endara was initially released after receiving eight stitches in the head. However, Endara was taken back to Punta Paitilla Hospital for further treatment of the head wounds he received during the incident.

After noting that Endara will probably be hospitalized for several days, Melgar said that due to his weakened condition, Endara had to be taken on a stretcher from the suite he was occupying in the Ejecutivo Hotel, the opposition's operations center.

The physician explained that the opposition leader is suffering from a possible "loss of use" of the left side of his brain, which might require surgery at the risk of a temporary loss of memory.

Meanwhile, opposition sources said tonight that the whereabouts and health of Second Vice Presidential Candidate Guillermo Ford, who was brutally beaten by paramilitary mobs during the incidents, are not known.

An opposition spokesman said Ford was taken by government troops to the "Victoriano Lorenzo" Military Hospital and was then transferred to the Model Prison, but his current whereabouts are unknown.

5 Dead, 23 Wounded in Attack

PA1105050289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 10 May (AFP)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC first vice presidential candidate, reported this evening that 5 opposition supporters were killed and 23 wounded during today's riots in Panama City.

Arias Calderon said at a news conference that ADOC's candidate for second vice president, Guillermo Ford, was under arrest at a military garrison. Arias Calderon held General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP, responsible for whatever happens to Ford.

During the demonstration, the opposition candidates and approximately 100 supporters were attacked by dozens of civilians wearing T-shirts labeled "Dignity Battalion" and carrying pistols and iron bars.

Ford was hit in the head, face, and body by several "paramilitary" attackers. He was then taken by government troops to a military hospital and placed under arrest, according to opposition reports. [passage omitted]

Duque Criticizes Observers

PA1105150089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0557 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 11 May (AFP)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime increased its military patrols in Panama City at midnight last night while rumors circulated that an alleged attempted rebellion was taking place inside some Armed Forces barracks. New contigents of troops armed with M-16 rifles and with painted faces went out on Panama City streets a few minutes after the TEP announced at 2300 (0400 GMT) the annulment of the 7 May general elections. [passage omitted]

The TEP's announcement of the annulment of the elections was made after the EC and the so-called Group of Eight ambassadors to Panama met at the Nunciature with government presidential candidate Carlos Duque to persuade him to accept the victory of his opponent, Guillermo Endara's.

A few hours after the meeting, Duque met with the press and accused the opposition of "massive forgery" of vote tally sheets.

Duque condemned "U.S. participation" in the Panamanian crisis and stated Noriega will continue in his post as the country's top military chief alongside with a government that rules "for the humble and the needy."

Duque commented: "International observers did not act correctly; they remained in Panama for only a couple of hours and then spoke about fraud." Observers also stated the opposition won the elections with over 70 percent of the votes.

Only a couple of hours before Magistrate Pulice announced the annulment of the elections—which up until that moment were [officially] giving the victory to the government candidate—Duque smilingly told the press: "I accept the results of the National Vote-Counting Board. I am a Christian and want peace." [passage omitted]

Perez Accused of Promoting 'Coup'

PA1105132089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0758 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 May (EFE)—A high-ranking officer of the FDP today accused Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez "of having tried to promote a coup" recently against General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his general staff.

Major Daniel Delgado, director of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry's Canal Treaty Affairs Directorate, told EFE that Perez "tried to recruit the Panamanian military attache in Bogota," Captain Marco Arjona, to convince high-ranking FDP officers of the need for a coup.

According to Delgado, the president of Venezuela contacted Arjona through Colombian businessman Carlos Perez Norsagaray, who had met with the Panamanian military attache on 8 May in Bogota.

According to the same source, Arjona was entrusted with the mission of contacting Colonel Guillermo Wong, chief of military security; Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Arosemena King; and Maj Delgado himself to have them participate in a movement to "disband the general staff and establish a pro-U.S. civilian junta."

Delgado added that the "offer" Arjona was to transmit to these officers included Noriega's leaving the country and "the removal of most members of the current general staff."

He insisted the plan was meant to "behead the entire military leadership, not just Noriega."

According to Delgado, the meeting between Perez Norsagaray and Arjona took place in Perez Norsagaray's Bogota home. During the meeting, Perez Norsagaray telephoned Carlos Andres Perez, the Panamanian captain told his superiors.

"In exchange for the coup, Carlos Andres Perez offered to accept Panama again into the Group of Eight," the most influential organization of Latin American countries. Since President Eric Delvalle was dismissed in February 1988, Panama has not been invited to the group's meetings.

According to the Panamanian officer, the participation of Perez Norsagaray was approved by the Venezuelan president because of the friendship he had with General Omar Torrijos, Panamanian head of government from 1968 until his death in 1981.

Asked why Perez Norsagaray selected those three officers whom Arjona was to contact, Delgado explained it was because Wong is director of security, Arosemana King had "close ties" with Torrijos, and Delgado has "political contacts" as a result of his role in the Foreign Ministry. "We are not traitors," Maj Delgado concluded, adding that Noriega was "immediately" notified of what was happening.

FDP in State of 'Maximum Alert'

PA1105141289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1048 GMT 11 May 89

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 11 May (EFE)—According to a high-ranking Panamanian officer, the FDP are currently in a situation of "maximum alert" in case of a possible U.S. military intervention.

Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, chief of the National Department of Investigation (DENI) and considered to be one of the people closest to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, today asserted that "all FDP battalions are on a state of maximum alert to defend us from a possible U.S. attack."

The officers themselves seem to be "on alert," travelling about the city with their pistols strapped to their hip. Most officers remain armed even in their offices.

Madrinan made this statement shortly after Allen Cornell, U.S. military attache in Panama, left the DENI installations accompanied by two U.S. Army majors who had been arrested by Panamanian security agents a few hours before.

The two majors, who are U.S. Embassy military attaches, were arrested while observing an opposition demonstration and how it was broken up by police. The arrest is the latest in a long chain of incidents between both countries and their armed forces.

Madrinan, member of the FDP staff and of the influential Strategic Military Council, accused the U.S. Army of waging "psychological" and "intelligence (information) warfare" aimed at laying the ground for a possible intervention.

Madrinan believes the deafening sound of an airplane flying without lights, which was heard by all of Panama City's inhabitants for several hours the night before, was produced by a highly sophisticated Hercules "spy" plane flying over the city.

According to Madrinan, the Hercules plane has equipment capable of detecting deployment or large concentrations of people "by heat waves." The aircraft is also being used for "interfering with frequencies and communications." During the last 2 days, Panama has occasionally interfered with the television channel used by the U.S. military stationed on the banks of the Panama Canal and has substituted the station's newscasts on the Panamanian crisis with documentaries on U.S. intervention in the Caribbean.

Madrinan stated that the U.S. military "intends to do something similar with our channels."

Madrinan's description of "psychological operations" also includes, he added, unusual deployment of planes and helicopters that can be observed by any citizen near the U.S. bases near Panama City.

"Helicopter gunships have been placed on the landing strip at Howard (one of these bases), pointing toward the FDP command headquarters," Madrinan pointed out.

He also charged there were U.S. troops "in the mountains on the canal banks," without specifying the number; however, he added that "they are trying to justify their presence there by claiming to be carrying out maneuvers."

However, neither Madrinan nor any other Panamanian officers who were consulted seem to believe in an imminent U.S. military intervention, despite the decision to place all personnel stationed in Panama under "Charlie Alert," as was announced following yesterday afternoon's disturbances.

The officer said he was convinced that "the cost would be so high (for the United States) that it would not justify the expense."

However, he admitted that "we have adopted defense plans for the commander (Noriega) and for the installations."

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis and U.S. President George Bush yesterday held a high-level meeting at the White House to examine various options for the Panamanian crisis, including sending more troops to the Southern Command bases, where there are some 13,000 men.

Madrinan said he was surprised at these reports, adding: "On the contrary, everything seems to indicate the United States is planning to take people out."

There is no exact information on how many men there are now in the the FDP, but there were only 12,000 men 5 years ago. However, foreign military analysts say there are "over 20,000" and emphasize their "training." However, they are evidently inferior in fire power "in a ratio of at least 1 to 15."

When asked about the role of the so-called "Dignity Battalions"—composed of armed civilians and created, according to the regime, to oppose foreign military intervention—Madrinan said: "They are FDP reserves in case there is U.S. aggression." However, he did not wish to specify how many members there are in these battalions, which some sources claim to number over 5,000.

The "battalions" were called last night to their garrison bases, something observers interpreted as the highest level of alert, anticipating an intervention.

The U.S. ambassador to Panama was particularly harsh in criticizing the participation of these battalions in the incidents in which the opposition candidates were injured, and he requested these battalions be immediately dissolved.

Madrinan blamed Davis of "being the main instigator of the violence" and of intervening in Panama's domestic affairs, "as he did in the Philippines and Paraguay," two posts where the American diplomat previously served. [as received]

Electoral Press Center Comments

PA1105144289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1209 GMT 11 May 89

[Telephone interview with Boris Moreno, Electoral Press Center director, "a few hours after the elections were nullified"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I am talking from the Electoral Press Center to inform you that the Electoral Tribunal's decision to nullify the 7 May elections resulted from the detection of a large number of irregularities brought upon by pressure from the United States, which has been spending all kinds of money to buy off party representatives and voting table presidents. Cases of corruption have been detected. In addition, there have been cases of provocation because of street disorders once the vote count was suspended by the 40 members of the electoral circuit vote-counting boards. The vote count was suspended because the opposition alliance—directed by the Americans—prevented the vote tally sheets from being sent to the National Vote-Counting Board.

Logically, the opposition followers took to the streets to cause disorders and destroy property. No serious damage was caused, but some people were injured today.

Witnesses have said a paramilitary-type unit—you could tell they were people with military training—attacked a group of FDP officers who were preserving public order during an opposition demonstration. This group fired machineguns against FDP troops and officers, wounding two lieutenants, a corporal, and a soldier—two of the wounded are in serious condition and two are in stable condition.

Here in Panama, we were able to detect the presence of foreigners who were allegedly brought into the country. It is being said they are Nicaraguan contras who have been hired by the U.S. Government and the Panamanian opposition to cause disorders and lead the armed actions against the FDP and against the followers of the National Liberation Coalition. This is a strong rumor and has even been reported by international journalists, who have even provided figures as to the number of contras who entered Panama.

This is not an official report; it is information we have received from foreign correspondents who have learned about this. However, the situation in Panama is calm now.

'Shooting' at FDP Headquarters

PA1105135389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1339 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] There is shooting inside the FDP Headquarters. Apparently the Cubans give orders and the Panamanian soldiers refuse to obey.

There are many people who are ordering Panamanians to murder their people, but the Panamanian soldiers are not obeying. Here is the report from Panama. There is shooting inside the FDP Headquarters:

[Begin unidentified person recording] There is shooting inside the FDP Headquarters located in downtown Panama. We have confirmed reports that shooting is taking place inside the FDP Headquarters. The soldiers are shooting among themselves.

All access to the FDP Headquarters is blocked, but we have confirmation of the shooting through various phonecalls made by people who live near the headquarters. [end recording]

More on Shooting at FDP

PA1105143789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1413 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The military press center in the cave of drug-trafficking thieves shamelessly told a foreign correspondent that four soldiers received bullet wounds. They blame members of the opposition for this. However, the military press center, led by a well-known drug trafficker, did not report the fact that there have been fights and shootings among the soldiers themselves. They shot at each other inside the FDP headquarters because they

were all doped up. There was an exchange of gunfire, in which the soldiers Octaviano Villarreal, Demetrio Villarreal, Jorge Enrique Porras, and Marcos Dominguez were wounded. They were shot inside the military headquarters, where the Panamanian soldiers refuse to follow orders from Cubans and especially Libyans, who they cannot understand.

Ford at Medical Clinic

PA1105151189 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1450 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Attention Panama, attention Panama. This is Orlando de la Guardia with good news from reliable sources. We have been informed that our Guillermo Ford Boyd, our second vice president-elect, has been released, and he is now receiving medical treatment at a Panama City medical clinic. He will make statements as soon as he recovers. His condition is not serious and we have been informed that he will make statements to the public soon. We thank almighty God to have our great friend and our vice president-elect back. Thank you.

More on Ford Release

PA1105160189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1455 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 11 May (EFE)—Guillermo Ford, Panamanian opposition second vice presidential candidate, whose family had reported him missing last night after the recent disturbances, in which Ford was attacked and injured, returned to his home early this morning, one of Ford's relatives told EFE.

The source revealed that Ford "showed up" at 0430 local time (0930 GMT) after his relatives requested the help of Apostolic Nuncio Spanish Bishop Jose Sebastian Laboa to help them locate Ford.

After the disturbances, several witnesses said they saw Ford being taken away in a military vehicle that departed for an unknown destination.

In answer to EFE questions about Ford's health, the source said: "His condition is not serious, but he was badly injured."

The politician suffered injuries and bruises after being attacked by paramilitary forces while participating yesterday in a demonstration along with the other opposition candidates Guillermo Endara and Ricardo Arias Calderon, presidential and first vice presidential candidates respectively. [passage omitted]

Ford is currently being examined at a local clinic. The source refused to reveal the name of the clinic, reiterating that his condition "is not serious."

The sources refused to provide further details on how Ford returned home or on his current whereabouts.

Argentina

Government Expresses 'Deep Concern' on Panama

PY1105012289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (NA)—Today the Argentine Government condemned the Panamanian Government because "it is quite regrettable to see the current Panamanian Government persisting in its attitude of ignoring the people's will as the only source of legitimacy, and isolating itself even more from the Latin American community."

The foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela today expressed "their deep consternation at a situation that could further segregate the Panamanian Government from the Latin American democratic community." This statement is part of a communique on the conflict provoked by the election result in Panama.

Both communiques—the one issued by the government and the one issued by the Group of Seven [refering to the Group of Eight, without Panama] that was disseminated by the Foreign Ministry here tonight—state:

"The Argentine Government expresses its deep concern at the events in Panama.

"Along with the restrictions that hindered the process before the 7 May election, there are now serious and proved reports affecting the cleanliness of the ballot. There are also reports of violence that, viewed together, show a series of affronts against the Panamanian people. We do not deem it ethical to remain indifferent to these facts.

"The Latin American peoples, despite the grave economic crisis that is without precedent in the region, reiterate their irrevocable decision to advance along the democratic path toward peace, progress, independence, and integration. It is therefore quite regrettable to see the current Panamanian Government persisting in its attitude of ignoring the people's will as the only source of legitimacy, and isolating itself even more from the Latin American community.

"The Argentine Government reiterates its traditional support of the principle of nonintervention and to the Carter-Torrijos treaty, and confirms its belief that the best defense of these values lies in the freely expressed principle of self-determination for the Panamanian people, without frauds, impositions, or violence."

Soviet Ambassador Denies Falklands Zone Fishing

PY1005144589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1155 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 10 May (NA)—Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Oleg Kvasov has denied here that Soviet trawlers are operating in the maritime exclusion zone imposed by Great Britain around the Malvinas Islands.

Kvasov was surprised with reports circulating in this regard. He stated: "My country fully complies with the fishing agreements signed with Argentina. Thus, 16 Soviet fishing boats are operating in the zone outlined by the Argentine authorities."

In remarks to the newspaper LA NUEVA PROVINCIA, Kvasov stated that "no Soviet ship has asked for any authorization from Great Britain." Kvasov is visiting this city to dedicate a part of the Piedrabuena thermoelectric plant.

Kvasov added that the Soviet technological cooperation with the Luis Piedrabuena thermoelectric plant "is an example of the economic and industrial cooperation between Argentina and the Soviet Union."

Sentences Requested for La Tablada Rebels

PY1005140689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2224 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 May (NA)—San Martin Federal Prosecutor Raul Plee today requested life and indefinite imprisonment for 14 guerrillas and life imprisonment for 6 others involved in the occupation of the La Tablada military unit.

At noon today Plee presented a 400-page indictment in which he made a detailed analysis of the events at La Tablada on 23 January 1989.

The life and indefinite imprisonment sentence was for the following 14 terrorists: Father Juan Puigjane, Roberto Felicetti, Miguel Aguirre, Luis Diaz, Isabel Fernandez, Gustavo Mesutti, Jose Moreyra, Carlos Motto, Sergio Paz, Sebastian Ramos, Luis Ramos, Claudio Rodriguez, Claudia Acosta, and Claudio Omar Veiga.

The prosecutor also requested life for Dora Ester Molina, Juan Manuel Ernesto Burgos, Juan Carlos Abella, Daniel Alberto Gabioud Almiron, Miguel Faldutti, and Cintia Castro.

Thus, the maximum punishment is being sought for the 13 terrorists who were detained at the La Tablada garrison after the bloody clash with regular forces, and for Father Puigjane, who was found to be "equally responsible" for the most serious crimes.

The five other people detained outside the military unit—in addition to Cintia Castro, who voluntarily turned herself in, according to the prosecutor—have been found to be responsible, but to a lesser degree. This is why Plee is seeking life imprisonment for the six, but without the additional indefinite imprisonment penalty. [passage omitted]

CGT, UIA Sign Temporary 'Social Pact'

PY1005172689 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 May 89 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The CGT [General Confederation of Labor] and the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) yesterday agreed on a social pact until June 15 whereby the former will abstain from strikes and the latter from lay-offs.

However the agreement does not ban general strikes by the CGT, according to CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini.

The aim of the pact, which was endorsed yesterday by Labour Minister Ideler Tonelli, is to lay the basis for a multisectorial agreement to overcome the economic crisis during the transition period between the May 14 elections and the December 10 presidential inauguration.

The agreement reportedly originated after meeting between UIA advisor Daniel Funes de Rioja, CGT union secretary Jose Pedraza and others on both sides of the weekend, and between Peronist presidential candidate Carlos Menem and UIA President Gilberto Montagna in Parana on Saturday night. Fear of the economic crisis and social unrest reportedly hastened the agreement.

Chile

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for PRC

PY1005192889 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 5 May 89 p 7

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Colonel Ramon Valdes departed for Beijing last night to meet with PRC Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen and PRC Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Zhu Qizhen.

Valdes will stay in Beijing until 12 May. He will then pay a 3-day visit to Thailand.

The main reason for Valdes' visit to Beijing will be to attend the inauguration of the first PRC-Chilean plant that will manufacture copper pipes. This plant is called the "Beijing-Santiago Copper Company."

Valdes stressed that this ceremony marks the first joint venture between the PRC and a Latin American country. He said that the implementation of this joint project shows that the ties between Chile and the PRC are being strengthened.

Valdes said that this is one of the several visits that are being made by PRC and Chilean officials to Santiago and to Beijing. Among them, he mentioned the visit of the PRC vice foreign minister to Santiago, during which political issues were discussed. Valdes added that during his own visit to the PRC he hopes to resume discussion on political matters with PRC officials.

Valdes will then go to Thailand where he will preside over a meeting of the Chilean ambassadors accredited to Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, and Philippines, all of which were summoned to Bangkok for the meeting with Valdes.

Regarding this trip abroad, Valdes yesterday said that these political contacts with the FRG and Thailand "are in keeping with our policies toward the Pacific area."

Official Denies Visit by Soviet Diplomat

PY1005193289 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 5 May 89 p 7

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Colonel Ramon Valdes has said that he knows absolutely nothing about the alleged visit that a Soviet diplomat paid to Chile last December to observe the Chilean political process, with a view to reestablishing bilateral relations.

Valdes told the press: "I know absolutely nothing about it. I did not make contact with any Soviet diplomat."

Diplomatic sources have reported that there is no confirmation that a Soviet official did visit Santiago.

Journalists questioned Valdes because of reports that quote the latest issue of CARTA CONFIDENCIAL, a biweekly analytical magazine.

According to CARTA CONFIDENCIAL, high-ranking Soviet officials are interested in the Chilean political process. It also reported that Soviet Ambassador Analdy Medbedenko [name and title as published] reportedly visited Santiago on 1 December 1988.

Finance Minister To Sign Loan Agreements

PY1005141189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Finance Minister General Enrique Seguel has traveled to the United States to sign agreements with the World Bank for two loans amounting to $150 million.

The money will be earmarked for financing private industry and city road projects. Each loan will amount to $75 million, and one of the projects it will finance is the maintenance of national highways, the expansion of public transport services, and other projects to expedite traffic in urban areas. All these projects fall under a 5-year program to be carried out by the Highway Directorate.

Air Force Chief Says Democracy 'Guaranteed'

PY1005222489 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Apr 89 p C-6

[By Francisco Eterovic]

[Text] Punta Arenas—Yesterday General Fernando Matthei, commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force [FACh], said here that "the path to full democracy is

guaranteed by the Constitution. No one can stop it because we have sworn to fulfill what is provided by it. There is no doubt in my mind that the process will continue the way it is anticipated."

Matthei made this comment upon arriving in Punta Arenas in the company of Santiago Sinclair [Government Junta member] and FRG Ambassador Max Gunter Knackstedt. The group will travel to Antarctica from Punta Arenas.

Matthei said: "We (the Armed Forces) will guarantee the full development of political parties so they can use their different programs to attract the support of the nation. Chileans will choose the future government they want. Chileans will have the government they deserve."

Matthei stressed that all government goals, including the constitutional schedule, are being fulfilled. "We will have elections and we will respect the decision of the people that said 'no' in the plebiscite, even though I would have preferred they said 'yes.' But they said 'no.' We will respect that decision."

Asked about the latest cabinet changes, Gen Matthei said he could not comment on the issue "because it is an exclusive attribution of the Executive Branch, and I am part of the legislative branch and a commander in chief of the Air Force. The Executive Branch is not part of my jurisdiction and I cannot comment on problems involving it. We are all soldiers. Each one respects the jurisdiction of the other. The president does not interfere with the legislative branch and I do not interfere with the Executive Branch."

Asked if the cabinet changes could affect the process of democratization, Matthei said: "On the contrary, I think everything is going quite smoothly."

Asked if according to the present Constitution he could run for the Senate, Matthei answered: "I might." Asked if he was going to run, Matthei said: "I have already answered that question, and I am not going to repeat myself."

Regarding the FACh mission in Antarctica, Matthei said that FACh will make the initial exploration for the establishment of aeronautic routes that will be used by university scientific teams.

"Every country in the world is interested in Antarctica. We cannot and should not stay behind. Ten years ago the FACh began an intensive exploration to consolidate our presence in the continent. The FACh has done its job and will continue working strictly in that field."

"We have not recorded a single failure yet. Our work in 'Las Estrellas' was successful thanks to Chilean women there and thanks to the children that have adapted perfectly to very harsh conditions."

Gen Matthei announced that this year they expect to organize the first international ski competition in Antarctica.

Socialist Factions Announce Unification

PY1005145089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] The members of the Almeyda and Nunez factions of the Socialist Party seem to have reached an overall agreement to unite. The parties announced that on 4 June they will start a process that will lead to the establishment of a new political party that they hope will play as important a role in the opposition as the Christian Democratic Party.

This announcement was made by Carlos Briones, member of the Nunez faction, who was accompanied by Eduardo Paredes, member of Almeyda faction. Briones and Paredes are both presidents of the so-called organizing committee of the 25th Socialist Congress.

Briones explained that the unification of the socialist parties is based on the principles of open self-criticism with respect for the opinion of minority groups and the eradication of the Stalinism that ruled socialism in the past.

Briones explained that a great assembly will take place on 4 June to start organizing regional, provincial, and district committees. [passage omitted]

RN, PN Reach Agreement To Form Coalition

PY1005193789 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Apr 89 p C-6

[Text] Leaders Patricio Phillips of the National Party [PN] and Andres Allamand of the National Renewal Party [RN] reported last night that the PN and the RN have reached an initial agreement to form a coalition, and that the Radical Democratic Party [DR] will also participate in it.

The objective is to reach a political and electoral agreement because the country demands the unity of the center-right faction, Phillips stated.

These leaders met at the RN headquarters without the DR leader because bilateral meetings are being held before the trilateral ones among these organizations, known as "the triangle."

The merging coalition will be established within the next few days, but, according to Phillips, the history of the liberal and conservative parties is based on these parties, and this is why there are no substantial differences among them. "We are satisfied in fulfilling the democratic task of being united and in being able to contribute to the development of the country."

In answer to a question, Allamand stated that this decision does not mean that the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] "will be left out." He noted that it is just a matter of seeking the unification of political platforms, stressing the fact that people who think alike are reaching agreements and that their objective is to form a great organization of the center-right.

Terrorists Destroy Bus in Quinta Normal

PY1005200989 Santiago Television Nacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] A terrorist group has set fire to a bus carrying 50 telephone company workers. The attack took place at 0800 this morning in the Quinta Normal neighborhood.

Two individuals—a man and a woman—armed with automatic weapons intercepted the bus and forced the passangers to get off. However, they tried to burn the driver alive with the bus.

According to the driver, he managed to escape just before the bus was set afire. The subversives then fled in an automobile that was waiting nearby. Before they escaped, they left pamphlets of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front and the Lautaro extremist groups.

New Under Secretary of Education Appointed

PY1005200789 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 May 89 p C-5

[Summary] The government has appointed Maria Sixtina Barriga Guzman as the new under secretary of education, replacing Paulina Dittborn.

Colombia

Foreign Minister Comments on Panama Situation

PA1105042989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0155 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 10 May (EFE)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes says the Panamanian electoral process "should be free of any manipulation or coercion" and he regretted that "incidents aimed at restricting the people's free expression of their will" had taken place.

Londono said that "in view of the circumstances surrounding the Panamanian electoral process," the Colombian Government "must express its deep concern over actions aimed at restricting the people's legitimate, sovereign right to freedom of expression."

Colombia, Londono told the press, also regrets that the "the full implementation of human rights and freedom of expression have been hindered."

The Colombian foreign minister added that the electoral process "should reflect the Panamanian people's genuine hopes of restoring true democracy in a climate of peace and national harmony."

Londono also reiterated Colombia's "unchangeable adherence to the principles of nonintervention in the internal affairs of states, its rejection of threats or force, and the inviolability of international treaties."

The Colombian foreign minister made the statement shortly after a document issued by the Group of Eight was published in Bogota. In the document the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Uruguay refrained from passing judgement on the situation in Panama.

Mass Grave Linked to 'Right-Wing Death Squads'

PA1005214989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1908 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 10 May (DPA)—Colombian authorities have reported that searchers today recovered 19 more bodies from a mass grave discovered several weeks ago. At least 100 people murdered by rightist paramilitary groups are believed to be buried in that grave.

The bodies, which were completely decomposed, were taken from the grave, a 200-meter deep cave near San Vicente de Chucuri. Extreme right-wing death squads used the grave to hide the bodies of their victims.

According to estimates by the Administrative Security Department, the government's secret service, the dead are mostly regional left-wing and peasant leaders who had been kidnapped by the gunmen. Six other bodies were recovered from the cave during the first days of the search.

Right-wing paramilitary groups, numbering approximately 140 throughout the country, according to the government, are accused of hundreds of political crimes against leftist activists. A death squad member who recently managed to evade surveillance and appear on a radio talkshow said: "We will eliminate the communists any way we can."

Ecuador

'Tense Calm' in Militarized Canar Province

PA1105053789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Quito, 10 May (AFP)—There is a tense calm in the southern province of Canar, which was militarized yesterday after President Rodrigo Borja decreed a state of emergency to counter the indefinite strike in effect in that province for the past 16 days.

The presidential decree declared Canar Province a security zone and ordered the military to control and normalize the situation and to guarantee public transportation, public services, food supplies, and civil rights.

Canar Province began the strike to pressure the government into complying with the promises it made in January during negotiations to end another strike in that province.

Monday night, in the capital city of Cuenca in Azuay Province, strike committee delegates decided to suspend the strike to hold talks with government representatives. However yesterday, Tuesday, a people's assembly decided to reactivate the strike.

President Borja charged that "a group of agitators" is responsible for disobeying a resolution issued by the people of Canar, and he warned: "There are those who are interested in creating problems for the country." Canar Province Governor Cesar Romo Layola said today that public demonstrations and political statements to the media in his province are prohibited.

A Radio Quito correspondent reported this morning that local Canar Province media is under military censorship and that arrest warrants have been issued against the strike committee leaders. The daily EXPRESO revealed today in a front-page report that the strike committee leaders are in hiding for fear of being arrested. Meanwhile, Radio Quito has not dismissed the possibility of protest marches taking place.

Approximately 10,000 electricity company workers are in their 2d day of a strike today in support of other workers involved in electricity services who are facing labor problems. This strike is not disrupting electricity services.

There are other strikes in various regions. Threats of strikes from the transportation, health, education, and labor sectors—all at the national level—are being heard during this second wave of protests [words indistinct], who has held that position for 9 months. Last year, following the adoption of strong economic measures, the country went through a similar period of protests, culminating in a national strike by the Sole Workers Front.

Peru

Annulment of Panamanian Elections Rejected

PA1105043289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0409 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Lima, 10 May (AFP)—The Peruvian Government reported tonight that its ambassador to Panama, Mario Castro Arenas, "has been notified by (Panamanian) Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter about the possible decision by the Panamanian Government to annul the elections" that were held on Sunday, 7 May.

The Peruvian Government, in a communique issued by the Presidential Press Secretariat tonight, condemned and rejected "the possible decision by the Panamanian Government to annul the general elections" held in Panama on Sunday. The Peruvian Government considers this to be "a step contrary to the Panamanian people's will."

Panama's Endara Thanks Garcia for Stance

PY1005134489 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Last night President Alan Garcia received a letter from Guillermo Endara, leader of the Panamanian opposition, who said that the people of Panama very much appreciate the precise and timely statement by Garcia's government. The letter added that the people of Panama believe the Peruvian president's position is very important for the final result of the struggle for freedom and democracy in Panama.

In a passage of the letter addressed exclusively to the Peruvian president, Endara states that his people are seeking the establishment of a democratic and pluralistic government. The people also believe that the presence and intervention of Latin American governments and of international organizations is essential to prevent the elections from becoming an affront to the Panamanian people.

Part of Endara's letter reads as follows: We think it is very important that your statement makes it absolutely clear that the Latin American presence in our country must prevent the agreements reached with the United States on the return of the Panama Canal to our country by the end of 1990 from being violated under any pretext.

Defense Minister Resigns for 'Personal Reasons'

PY1005123889 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] According to a note released by the Defense Ministry Press Office, on 8 May General Enrique Lopez Albujar presented to President Alan Garcia his irrevocable resignation from his post as defense minister for personal reasons.

Military Counters Shining Path 'Armed Stoppage'

PY1105001489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2213 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Lima, 10 May (EFE)—According to military communiques, hundreds of Peruvian Army soldiers are patrolling the streets of Huanuco, Pasco, and Huanuco [as received] in the central mountain range of the country on the first day of the 72-hour "armed stoppage" called for by the Shining Path.

According to local officials, the stoppage is aimed at paralizing mining production in the provinces where the large state mining companies and 90 percent of the small and medium-range mines are located.

Shining Path called for the "armed stoppage" last week in pamphlets thrown in the streets, popular markets, and public and private offices.

The "armed stoppage" called for by Shining Path was made 1 week before the ninth anniversary of the Shining Path armed struggle, which began on 17 May 1980 in Chuschin, in the high region of Ayacucho. This was 1 day before the general elections that followed 12 years of military governments.

Some witnesses have reported to EFE by telephone that the soldiers have taken control of the Andean cities and are patrolling the streets in small tanks, trucks, and armed vehicles, and they are only allowing workers into the mines.

The witnesses added that businesses were partially closed this morning in Junin, Cerro de Pasco, and Huanuco, that school activities were suspended, and that public services were reduced.

Authorized spokesman have reported that on the 1st day of the "armed stoppage," the mining complex of the state owned Centromin-Peru and the private companies were producing their normal quantities and work attendance was normal.

In communiques released last night, the military commands urged the people to reject "the call made by people who want to subvert order and peace" and warned that the soldiers will use their firearms "against the people who try to unleash chaos and violence."

A military spokesman in Huancayo, the capital of Junin Department, told EFE that early this morning the city was awakened by two powerful explosions. One of them apparently knocked down a high tension pylon, causing an outage in the city.

He added that at least 50 people were detained for not carrying identification documents during the antiterrorist operation that started last night.

Luis Rodriguez, president of the National Association of Mining and Oil, said today that if the miners obey the "armed stoppage," it will cause great losses to the companies and to the country.

Rodriguez added that "the people are scared, and this is why we demanded protection for the workers and their families. This can only be achieved with the presence of the Armed Forces."

Rodriguez also said that in the 9 years of armed struggle, at least 15,000 people have been killed and that the material losses total about $12 billion.

More Terrorist Attacks, Violence Reported

7 Killed in Clashes

PY1005231289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1609 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Lima, 9 May (EFE)—According to press reports in Lima today, four Peruvian National Police members, one mine workers leader, and three suspected members of the Maoist guerrilla organization Shining Path died during clashes on 7 May.

On 7 May, two policemen on night patrol in San Martin de Pangoa were shot dead by an undetermined number of attackers, who took the policemen's guns.

San Martin de Pangoa is located in the coffee-growing zone of Chanchamayo, in the Junin jungle zone of central Peru.

On the same day, a Shining Path column of about 100 hooded men entered the small town of Chicrin, where they attacked the police station and other public buildings. Chicrin is the mining center of Pasco Department, in the central Peruvian mountain region.

The clash between the police and the subversives resulted in the death of two policemen, three Shining Path subversives, and one unidentified mine workers leaders.

Two police corporals and two civilians were also injured during the clash. The terrorists fled the town after 5 hours.

Former Official's House Attacked

PY1005192589 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Terrorists attacked the house of a former police doctor early this morning, damaging his car.

Police sources have reported to the '60 Minutos' program that the attack occurred today at 0230 at 186 Nectar Street, where former police Dr Rosendo Gonzales Cabrera lives.

Unidentified individuals threw a dynamite stick from a moving car. The explosion damages Gonzales' car, license plate no IU-9329, which he had parked in front of his house. No victims were reported.

Huanta Mayor's Son Killed

PY1105025389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2220 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Huanta, Peru, 10 May (EFE)—The police reported today that Ciro La Torre, the 15-year-old son of Artemio La Torre, was killed yesterday by the Maoist guerrilla group "Shining Path." Artemio La Torre, the mayor of Huanta (located 620 km southeast of Lima), is a well-known leader of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

Last night three individuals attacked Ciro La Torre when he was about 5 blocks from the Marine barracks. The individuals fired three shots, one of which hit La Torre in the head.

The police added that before killing him, the guerrillas shouted that La Torre's father "is the blackheads' (the military) stool pigeon." Artemio La Torre escaped unharmed from a similar attack a few days ago, after receiving death threats from "Shining Path."

Huanta is one of the Peruvian provinces most shaken by political violence.

Police Break Up International Drug Ring

PY1105032689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Lima, 10 May (EFE)—It was reported today that the Peruvian National Police have arrested three members of an international gang of drug traffickers of which former Peruvian diplomat Jose Manuel Pacheco was a member. Pacheco was arrested in the United Kingdom 1 and ½ months ago for carrying 20 kg of cocaine.

According to the Peruvian Police Narcotics Division, this gang kept radio contact with the Medellin Cartel and had smuggled 500 kg of cocaine into the United States through Hawaii in the Pacific.

The Peruvian police believe that since 1984 this gang also smuggled at least 50 kg of cocaine (pure cocaine) into the United Kingdom, 100 kg into Belgium, and 50 kg into Italy.

Alerted by the Peruvian police, DEA officials in Hawaii arrested Peruvian Emilio Melendez Bernal, who owns an exchange house in the San Isidro residential district of Lima.

Melendez distributed the drugs in the United Kingdom through former Peruvian diplomat Pacheco and Peruvian drug trafficker Carlos Margary, both of whom were arrested by British police on 24 March at the Oxford Hotel in London for carrying 20 kg of cocaine.

According to the Peruvian police, Melendez was arrested in Hawaii as he was contracting the services of a man to kill Peruvian drug trafficker Carlos La Rosa for stealing 20 kg of cocaine that was to be smuggled into Italy.

According to the Peruvian police, La Rosa was the gang's contact in Amberes, Belgium.

The people detained in Lima are Melendez' wife, his cousin, and another gang member. In Italy the police arrested Peruvian Celia Galvez, who is another gang member.

Galvez got the drugs from Colombian drug traffickers in Uchiza and Tocache, in northern San Martin Department; and in Satipo, Junin Department, where the police raided the Veracruz ranch where the cocaine was made.

The Dirimex S.A. exchange house in San Isidro was used by the gang as a front for smuggling drugs.

Suriname

Reportage on 5 May General Strike, 'Curfew'

Background to Strike Reviewed

PM1005144789 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 5 May 89 p 3

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Surinamese Unions Call a Day of Strikes"]

[Text] Paramaribo—The four largest unions in Suriname have called a 1-day strike for today. The strike is to protest against high prices, the Jungle Commando, and the force used in recent weeks by the military. The unions also want a "total fight" against the Netherlands, because development aid is being supplied in goods and services and not in cash.

The unions have together called for a 24-hour "daylight curfew," in imitation of the curfew that was long in force on the orders of Army leader Bouterse. F. Derby of the C-47 trade union: "We want to see no one on the streets. People who do go out on the streets are against this action." The unions consider that in the 17 months that have passed since the elections, the government of the Front for Democracy and Development could have done more to solve Suriname's problems.

While the strike is taking place, a complicated power struggle is going on behind the scenes. Trade union leaders Derby and Van Russel (of the Moederbond) announced Wednesday [3 May] that the government will not be able to save the situation without entering into a pact with the trade union movement and the military. Derby: "There are two possibilities. The military must be kept within the bounds of the Constitution, or the government will have to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Army."

Derby and Van Russel pointed to the qualities of the "Supreme Council," which prior to the elections was a forum for discussions between trade unions, industry and commerce, political parties, and the military. Originally it was intended that the present Council of State would have a similar function. But, to the annoyance of the Army leadership and the trade unions, the government decided that the Council of State must also reflect the outcome of the elections, which gave the Front parties in the government an overwhelming majority. The trade unions have refused to sit on the Council of State and are calling it "an ornament."

The call for the strike "against anyone and everyone" worries the Surinamese Government. President Shankar has said that Suriname's "young and fragile democracy is being endangered" and dismissed the accusation that the government is not sufficiently energetic. He asked the trade unions to "reconsider" the action. Vice President Arron had no objections to the strike as long as it was directed exclusively against the Netherlands.

Trade union members are very much ready to strike. They have been watching with growing amazement how the Army leadership has been presenting the government with faits accomplis and has been making governing impossible.

Paramaribo Termed 'Ghost Town'

PM1005152289 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 6 May 89 p 7

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "General Strike Brings Suriname to a Standstill"]

[Text] Paramaribo—The predictions of the four largest trade unions in Suriname proved correct: Paramaribo was a ghost town yesterday. Almost everyone heeded the call for a 1-day general strike. All government offices were closed, there was no public transport, and even private firms were not at work. It was also a day of great quiet. The unions had already announced that they would not be arranging any demonstrations and called on their supporters not to go out onto the streets. Even street traders and ice cream sellers stayed indoors.

The strike was directed against the government, which, according to the unions, is showing little dynamism in tackling Suriname's serious economic and political problems. However, the strike was also intended to "put some heart into" the government in the "total fight with the Netherlands over development aid," as C-47 trade union Chairman Fred Derby put it. The government must also do more against the displays of strength by the military, although the trade union leaders have indicated that, just as before the elections, there must be closer cooperation with the National Army, because Bouterse's NDP [National Democratic Party] will otherwise continue to pursue a troublesome opposition line.

A fifth trade union in the making, the "Independent Cooperative Trade Unions," which is not recognized by the other four trade unions—C-47, the Moederbond, the PWO [Progressive Workers Organization], and the CLO [Public Servants Organization Central Council]—did not take part in the strike. As a result, work was not halted at Suriname's main electricity generating plant and at two of the country's three bauxite companies.

Bouterse's NDP also spoke out against the strike and called on "responsible Surinamers to go to work as usual." As a result, the NDP fell into line with the government, which right up the last minute was making calls for the unions to reconsider their strike call.

President Shankar was not hindered by the strike when he left for Brazil, where he is to attend a presidential conference on the Amazon region. Shankar was picked up by a Brazilian military aircraft that had to land without the assistance of air traffic controllers. The trade unions disapprove of the president's decision to go to Brazil despite the strike. The trade unions consider that the president's presence is "urgently needed" at a time when the people are asking for attention to be paid to the nation's problems. All regular flights by SLM [Surinamese Airline Company] to Miami and Amsterdam were canceled.

Strikers in the civil service were paid as normal. Other employers have said that they will follow the principle of "no work, no pay." But the trade unions do not expect wages to be withheld, because if that happens there will be further strike action.

The leaders of the four trade unions said that they are very satisfied with the way in which people responded to their protest call. Although some of the population did not observe the call for a "daylight curfew," there were no protest marches or disturbances.

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